



Former United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, listens before her speech at a U.N. meeting to kick off events for the International Women's Day, Friday, March 7, 2014 at United Nations headquarters.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

# Hillary Clinton Urges Equality for Women and Girls

**EDITH M. LEDERER**  
**Associated Press**  
**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declared Friday that achieving equality for women and girls is

"the great unfinished business of the 21st century." The potential 2016 presidential candidate galvanized the U.N. commemoration of International Women's Day, repeating

her resounding declaration as first lady at the 1995 U.N. women's conference in Beijing that "human rights are women's rights — and women's rights are human rights."

Clinton said that important progress has been made, citing the increasing number of girls in school and women in elected office, and the repeal of many discriminatory laws.

"Yet for all we have achieved together, this remains the great unfinished business of the 21st century," she said.

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## Russia in patriotic fervor over Crimea

JOHN DAHLBURG  
LAURA MILLS

Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russia was swept up in patriotic fervor Friday for bringing Crimea back into its territory, with tens of thousands of people thronging Red Square waving flags and chanting "Crimea is Russia!" as a parliamentary leader declared that the peninsula would be welcomed as an "equal subject" of Russia.

The semi-autonomous region belongs to Ukraine, but the local parliament

commander began negotiations, the report said. Crimea's pro-Moscow leader denied any incident at the base.

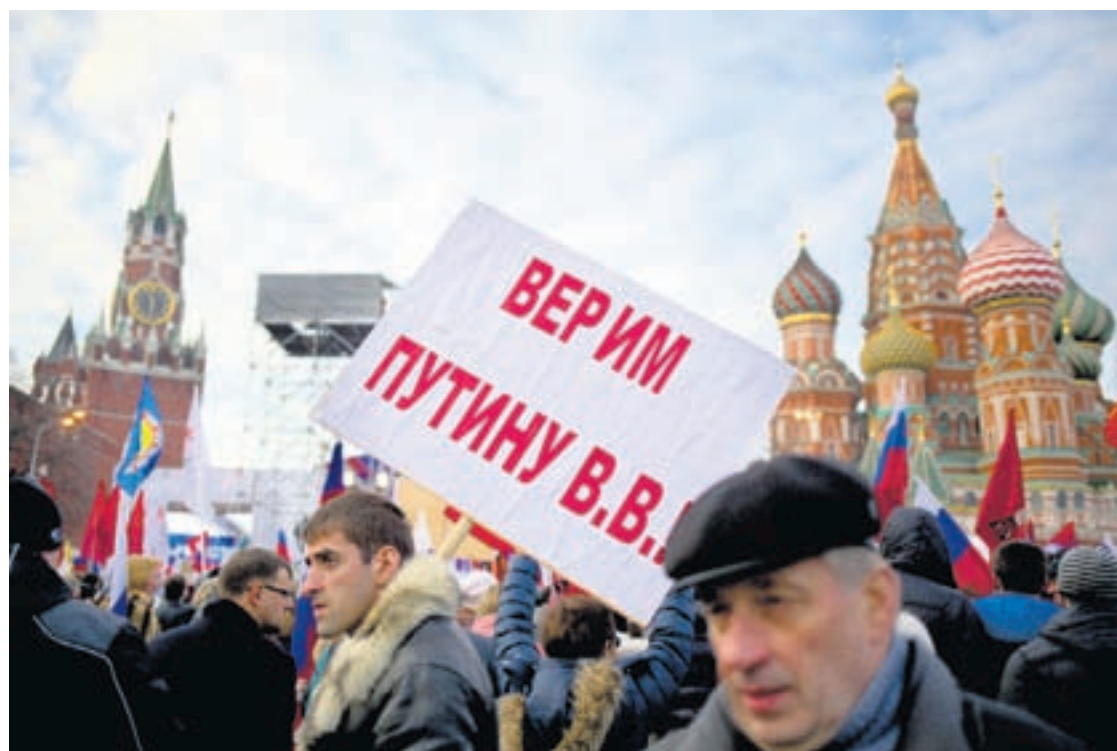
In the week since Russia seized control of Crimea, Russian troops have been neutralizing and disarming Ukrainian military bases on the Black Sea peninsula. Some Ukrainian units, however, have refused to surrender.

Crimea's new leader has said pro-Russian forces numbering more than 11,000 now control all access to region and have

where three months of protests sent President Viktor Yanukovich fleeing to Russia. Moscow calls the new Ukrainian government illegitimate, and has seized control of Crimea, where it has a major naval base on the Black Sea.

Although President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that Russia has no intention of annexing Crimea, he insisted that its residents have the right to determine the region's status in the referendum.

Valentina Matvienko, the speaker of Russia's upper



**A Pro-Putin demonstrators holds posters reading "We Believe Putin!" as others gather towards to Red Square in Moscow, Russia, Friday, March 7, 2014, with Spassky Tower, left, and St. Basil Cathedral, right, are in the background. Russia rallied support Friday for a Crimean bid to secede from Ukraine, with a leader of Russia's parliament assuring her Crimean counterpart that the region would be welcomed as "an absolutely equal subject of the Russian Federation." Across Red Square, 65,000 people waved Russian flags, chanting "Crimea is Russia!"**

(AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

has called a March 16 referendum on whether Crimea should join Russia, a move President Barack Obama has called a violation of international law.

Tensions in Crimea were heightened late in the evening when pro-Russian forces tried to seize a Ukrainian military base in the port city of Sevastopol, according to the Ukrainian branch of the Interfax news agency. No shots were fired, but stun grenades were thrown, according to the report, citing Ukrainian officials.

About 100 Ukrainian troops are stationed at the base and they barricaded themselves inside one of their barracks, and their

blockaded all military bases that haven't yet surrendered.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry that sanctions over Russian actions in Crimea could backfire, the ministry said in a statement.

In a telephone conversation, Lavrov urged the U.S. not to take "hasty, poorly thought-out steps that could harm Russian-U.S. relations, especially concerning sanctions, which would unavoidably boomerang on the U.S. itself," the statement said.

The strategic peninsula has become the flashpoint in the battle for Ukraine,

house of parliament, made clear Friday the country would welcome Crimea if it votes in the referendum to join its giant neighbor. About 60 percent of Crimea's population identifies itself as Russian.

"If the decision is made, then (Crimea) will become an absolutely equal subject of the Russian Federation," Matvienko said during a visit from the chairman of the Crimean parliament, Vladimir Konstantinov. She spoke of mistreatment of Russian-speaking residents in Ukraine's east and south, which has been Moscow's primary argument for possible intervention in Ukraine. □

## In Quebec, a Word Unspoken

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The New York Times

Since its founding in 1968, the separatist Parti Quebecois has had a single goal: independence from Canada for the largely French-speaking province of Quebec.

When it won majorities in 1976 and 1994, they were followed by provincial referendums on independence in 1980 and 1995. The first was lost by a wide margin, the second by a hair's breadth. Quebec secessionists long have expected to take a third shot when the party next forms a majority government.

That moment looks close. On March 5 Pauline Marois, the P.Q. leader and head of a minority government in Quebec since September 2012, called a snap election for April 7. Polls suggest that her party will win a majority of seats.

This time, though, Marois has fobbed off attempts to pin her down on the timing of a referendum by announcing that a P.Q. majority government would first commission a white paper on Quebec's future. Such hesitancy has dismayed stalwart separatists keen to get on with creating a country out of Canada's second-most-populous province, but Marois has sound reasons to tread softly.

First, the party's recent surge in the polls has little to do with public support for separation, which has stayed at around 40 percent for the past 12 years. It has everything to do with the P.Q.'s proposed law to ban public servants from wearing overt religious symbols such as a hijab, a kippa, a kirpan or a large crucifix — small ones are fine, apparently.

Critics see this as a naked attempt to polarize the electorate, pitting traditionalist Quebecers against new immigrants from Muslim countries in northern Africa and drawing a line between multicultural Montreal, a stronghold for the opposition Liberals, and the rest of Quebec.

If so, it has worked.

"It works well with their base, which is Francophone, rural and over 45," says Christian Bourque of Leger Marketing, a polling firm.

It also distracts from the P.Q.'s limp economic record and the unmet promises from its 2012 election campaign. There are also strategic reasons not to promise a swift referendum. Talk of national unity tends to bolster the federalist Liberal Party, which holds 49 seats to the P.Q.'s 54 in the outgoing provincial legislature. The Liberal campaign slogan — "Ensemble, on s'occupe des vraies affaires" ("Together, taking care of real business") — suggests that the party will try to tap the concerns of business about separatism.

Francois Vaillancourt of the University of Montreal estimates that the loss of federal transfers, higher interest rates on Quebec's debt and trade disruption would knock at least 5 percent and perhaps as much as 7 percent off of the provincial GDP following a split. In the same way that separatists in Scotland are grappling with questions about its currency and relationship with the European Union, big questions remain about whether an independent Quebec should retain the Canadian dollar and be part of a currency union, and about its future within Nafta.

All of this suggests that the P.Q. will continue to steer away from the sovereignty question. How long it could be in office while still avoiding a referendum in office is less clear, however.

"It would be hard for them not to hold one," says Andre Lecours of the University of Ottawa. "How else do you keep your supporters mobilized? But it's tricky, because you don't want to lose a third one." □



# Republican hopefuls face off on day 2 of CPAC



Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. moves a stuffed animal out of the way as he signs copies of his book at the Conservative Political Action Committee annual conference in National Harbor, Md., Friday, March 7, 2014. Friday marks the second day of the annual Conservative Political Action Conference, which brings together prospective presidential candidates, conservative opinion leaders and tea party activists from coast to coast.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

**KEN THOMAS  
STEVE PEOPLES  
Associated Press**

**OXON HILL, Maryland (AP)**

— Early auditions for the Republican Party's next presidential contest were in full swing Friday at the largest U.S. annual gathering of conservative activists, where ex-presidential candidates and a few new potential White House contenders tried out their speeches.

Speakers on the second day of the Conservative Political Action Conference included three former presidential candidates known for promoting social conserva-

tive values — Texas Gov. Rick Perry, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum. Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul was also to take the stage, setting up a clash of ideas between the libertarian-minded activists who generally flock to the conservative conference and the party's religious wing.

All four men have left open the possibility of running for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016 — a contest expected to begin in earnest in about a year. More than two years before the election to suc-

ceed President Barack Obama, there's no clear front-runner for the Republican nomination.

Republicans have much to mend before 2016, starting with a stark ideological divide between the party's establishment and the super-conservatives who rose to power in the tea party-fueled 2010 elections that delivered a Republican House majority.

The conservative conference comes less than a year after the Republican National Committee released a comprehensive plan to broaden the party's appeal after a disappointing 2012 election season. Tea party activists are demanding the party stick to deeply conservative principles, while some estab-

lishment Republicans are concerned about alienating Hispanics, women and other core constituencies.

Perry, the longtime Texas governor who stumbled as a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012, declared that conservative governors like him are leading the nation's economic recovery. He also suggested that Washington politicians in both parties have seized too much power, and it's time to elect "the right kind of leaders."

At stake this year is the Senate majority, currently held by senators in Obama's Democratic Party. But for all, the November elections could serve as a springboard for the next presidential contest. □

## US Border Patrol releases its use-of-force guidelines

**PHOENIX (AP)** — The U.S. Border Patrol has released guidelines on how agents are instructed to use deadly force in dealing with immigrants along the border. Border Patrol Chief Mike Fisher issued a directive Friday about techniques agents should use in dealing with rock throwers and other threats.

The directive suggests that agents obtain a tactical advantage in rock-throwing scenarios such as seeking cover or distancing themselves from the situa-

tion.

The Border Patrol has faced growing criticism in recent months for not being transparent enough about how it responds to immigrants who throw rocks at agents. Critics believe agents are too trigger-happy in those situations.

The Department of Homeland Security also released use-of-force policies that were written in 2004 and 2010 for Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. □

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## Hillary Clinton urges equality for women and girls

Continued from Front

In the nearly two decades since Beijing, Clinton said, "no country in the world has achieved full participation, and women and girls still comprise the majority of the world's unhealthy, unfed and unpaid." She called for greater opportunities for women and girls and urged the U.N. to include gender

equality at the forefront of its new goals to promote development.

"When women succeed the world succeeds," Clinton said. "When women and girls thrive, entire societies thrive. Just as women's rights are human rights, women's progress is human progress."

Clinton said the goals must ensure that women everywhere have the right to find a job, to own and

inherit property, to have a valid and legal identity, to have gender parity in primary and secondary education, and help end violence against women and child brides.

She stressed that there can be no progress "without safeguarding women's reproductive health and rights," saying the platform agreed to by 179 countries at the 1994 U.N. population conference in Cairo which



U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, left, and Executive Director of U.N. Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, center, greet former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, at a U.N. meeting to kick off events for the International Women's Day, Friday, March 7, 2014.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

ensures these rights "must be the starting point for work today."

"If we get it right, we can put the world on the path to less poverty and more prosperity, less inequality and more opportunity," Clinton said.

Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, head of UN Women, drew loud applause from representatives of the 193 U.N. member states and women's rights supporters when she echoed Clinton, declaring: "The 21st century offers an opportunity for a big leap forward — not baby steps. We've done baby steps."

She said she was also re-

peating Clinton's declaration from Beijing on women's rights "because equality between men and women remains an elusive dream."

The face of poverty is that of a woman," she said. "The majority of the world's poor and illiterate are women and girls."

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also made "a special appeal to the men and boys of the world" to join the conversation about women's rights including reproductive rights, women's empowerment, and ending violence against women. Equality for women is progress for all."□

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## Americans to set clocks forward

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Most Americans will set their clocks 60 minutes forward before heading to bed Saturday night, but daylight saving time officially starts Sunday at 2 a.m. local time (0700GMT).

An hour of sleep is lost, but daylight saving time arrives with the promise of many months ahead with an ex-

tra hour of evening light.

The time change is not observed by Hawaii, most of Arizona, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Marianas. It also means the United States is four hours behind Greenwich Mean Time instead of five. Daylight saving time ends Nov. 2.□





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## Death penalty trial set to open in Hawaii

JENNIFER KELLEHER

Associated Press

**HONOLULU (AP)** — A federal death penalty trial is set to begin in Hawaii, a rarity in a state that abolished capital punishment in 1957. Opening statements are scheduled for Tuesday in the trial of a former Hawaii-based Army soldier accused of beating his 5-year-old daughter to death in 2005. But because the crime allegedly took place on military property, Naeem Williams is being tried in federal court — a system that does have the death penalty.

It's rare for the government to seek the death penalty in a state that doesn't allow it. Only seven of 59 inmates currently on federal death row are from states that didn't have the death penalty at the time the sentence was imposed, according to the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington.

While the Williams case hasn't received much publicity, the death penalty circumstance gives it something in common with a more high profile case for federal prosecutors: the Boston Marathon bombing. "You have a population in Massachusetts and in the city where they're not used to having the death penalty," said Richard Dieter, the Death Penalty Information Center's executive director. "It just makes it a little



**A pedestrian walks in front of the federal building housing U.S. District Court in Honolulu on Friday, March 7, 2014. A courtroom in this building is set to become the scene of a death penalty trial even though Hawaii abolished capital punishment in 1957.**

(AP Photo/Audrey McAvoy)

harder to get these kinds of death sentences."

But Kenneth Lawson, associate director of the Hawaii Innocence Project, noted that someone who considers the death penalty immoral can be disqualified from serving on the jury.

"How do you get a jury of all of your peers when the only ones who can sit on there are those who believe in capital punishment?" he said.

Attorneys in the Williams case began questioning

prospective jurors in January.

Talia Emoni Williams died in July 2005 after she was brought to a hospital unresponsive, vomiting and covered in bruises. A criminal complaint by federal investigators accuses her then-25-year-old father of beating the child to discipline her for urinating on herself. Federal investigators wrote that military law enforcement agents found blood splatters in the walls of the family's home at

Wheeler Army Airfield from Talia being whipped with Williams' belt.

Delilah Williams, Talia's stepmother, was also charged with murder but pleaded guilty in a deal with prosecutors. She's expected to be sentenced to 20 years in prison after she testifies against Williams at his trial, said her federal public defender, Alexander Silvert.

The Army agreed the case should be prosecuted in the civilian justice system

so that the father and stepmother could appear in the same court.

"I am shocked that this case has not received more attention from the public and more attention from those groups in Hawaii that are anti-death penalty," Silvert said. "No one's in protest. To me, the lack of interest in the community is troubling."

Talia's biological mother, Tarshia Williams, is expected to testify for the prosecution, her attorneys said. She filed a civil lawsuit against the government over Talia's death. It has been put on hold until after the criminal trial. The mother's lawsuit claims the military didn't report to the proper authorities that Talia's father and stepmother "abused and tortured" her throughout the seven months she lived in Hawaii before she died.

Alberto Gonzales, the U.S. attorney general during President George W. Bush's administration, made the decision to seek the death penalty against Naeem Williams.

"Under Bush's administration, the philosophy was the federal death penalty should be spread out among all the states," Dieter said.

Legal observers say it's surprising that the current government continues to seek the death penalty against Williams. □



# 4 accused of fraud that sank law firm

**MATTHEW GOLDSTEIN**  
 © 2014 New York Times

**NEW YORK** - Several former leaders of the once-high-flying law firm Dewey & LeBoeuf apparently violated a cardinal rule that lawyers always tell their clients: Don't put anything incriminating into an email. Four men, who were charged by New York prosecutors Thursday with orchestrating a nearly four-year scheme to manipulate the firm's books to keep it afloat during the financial crisis, talked openly in emails about "fake income," "accounting tricks" and their ability to fool the firm's "clueless auditor," the prosecutors said.

firm's financial woes, according to the messages. It is the kind of rogue language that one might expect to find in emails unearthed during a corporate fraud case from the Enron era, but not at a law firm that carried the name of Thomas Dewey, the former governor of New York, who began his legal career by prosecuting organized crime. The indictment is an unusual coda to the collapse of a firm that was created by the 2007 merger of Dewey Ballantine and LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae and that filed for bankruptcy in May 2012. "Those at the top of the firm directed employees to

the men denied the charges. At its peak, the combined firm had 26 offices around the globe and employed more than 1,300 people. The \$550 million in claims against the firm's estate made it the largest bankruptcy filing by a law firm on record. The bankruptcy revealed that while Dewey was a brand-name operation, it failed to generate sufficient revenue to pay the big contracts of its star lawyers and meet its expensive overhead. The firm struggled to keep up with loan payments during the worst of the financial crisis. But the indictment and



**Cyrus Vance Jr., the Manhattan district attorney, outlines charges against four former top leaders of the law firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf, at a news conference in New York, March 6, 2014. The once-prestigious firm collapsed two years ago owing creditors \$550 million, after its leaders allegedly used accounting gimmicks for years as they scrambled to stave off bankruptcy.**

(Brian Harkin/The New York Times)

The messages were included in a 106-count indictment against Steven Davis, Dewey's former chairman; Stephen DiCarmine, the firm's former executive director; Joel Sanders, the former chief financial officer; and Zachary Warren, a former client relations manager. They were charged with larceny and securities fraud. One of the men even used the phrase "cooking the books" to describe what they were doing to mislead the firm's lenders and creditors in setting the stage for a \$150 million debt offering that was supposed to solve the

hide the firm's true financial condition from creditors, investors, auditors and even partners of the firm," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said at a news conference announcing the indictment. The case is also surprising in that it stems partly from a revolt within the firm itself. Lawyers at Dewey ousted Davis, an architect of the merger, as chairman just as the firm was preparing to file for bankruptcy. Soon afterward, several of them went to Vance, urging him to investigate Davis and his administrative team. Through their lawyers, all of

a parallel civil complaint filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission surprised even some who had worked at Dewey. The SEC complaint charged Davis, DiCarmine and Sanders with making material misrepresentations. The commission charged two other former top executives - Frank Canellas, the director of finance, and Thomas Mullikin, the controller. Elkan Abramowitz, the lawyer for Davis, 60, said that his client acted in "good faith in an effort to make the firm a success" and that the charges were "simply wrong."□

# Cleaning company ordered to pay \$1 million in back wages

**Katie Johnston**  
 © 2013 The Boston Globe

The Peabody cleaning contractor went to great lengths to avoid paying its janitors, housekeepers, and dishwashers for overtime -- issuing them checks under false names, altering time cards, and compensating them with cash to keep it off the books, according to a US Department of Labor investigation. Now, in one of the biggest wage settlements in New England, the company, Ward's Cleaning Service Inc., has agreed to pay its workers more than \$1 million in back wages and damages. The money will be spread among 149 people, with the largest payout set at \$43,000 and the lowest at \$40. Ward's, which provides cleaning staff for many hotels and restaurants in the Boston area, must also pay nearly \$164,000 in civil penalties and revamp its payroll system. "It was a sophisticated scheme," said Carlos Matos, a district director for the department's Wage and Hour Division.

In some cases, workers were given multiple photo IDs with different names for each hotel they cleaned, he said. A housekeeper might work 40 hours a week under one name, and additional hours at a separate property under a different name -- possibly that of a relative or past Ward's employee -- in order for the company to avoid paying for overtime. The employee would get two checks that week, made out to two different people, and take them to check-cashing stores that didn't scrutinize ID's. The Labor Department declined to reveal the names of the hotels and restaurants cleaned by Ward's employees. The case covers cleaners employed by Ward's between July 2009 and December 2012. Federal law requires overtime pay of at least one-and-a-half times an employee's regular wage after 40 hours of work in a week.

In response to the investigation, Ward's said it conducted its own audit and found its systems to track staff hours and assignments were "insufficient." "The members of our administrative team previously responsible for oversight and scheduling have been replaced," Ward's said in a statement.

"Going forward, we are confident that our current approach to tracking staff assignments and hours worked is secure and that this situation will not occur again." Wage violations, often exploiting low-wage workers, have become more common as companies increasingly turn to contract labor to cut costs, said Michael Felsen, the Labor Department's regional solicitor of labor for New England.

Last year, a Chelsea plant that processes animal hides was ordered to pay workers \$825,000. And 478 workers at dozens of Boston area restaurants were awarded \$1.3 million in 2012 for minimum wage and overtime violations.

One of the largest wage settlements in recent years involved the Philadelphia sports bar chain Chickie & Pete's, which agreed to pay about \$6.8 million to 1,159 employees for violating minimum wage, overtime, and tips laws.

The Ward's investigation is part of a national crack-down on wage violations in the hotel industry. Labor Department officials interviewed workers at 85 hotels and restaurants around Boston, and found that most violations stemmed from Ward's, a 58-year-old company with about 200 employees.□



# Venezuelan middle class seeks refuge in Miami

CHRISTINE ARMARIO

Associated Press

**MIAMI (AP)** — Carlos Salamanca fled Venezuela's growing political turmoil in January with his wife, two teenage children and \$7,000. Two months into their journey to the United States, he and his wife are sleeping most nights in an

and decided not to return. Athletes like Valentina Rodriguez, a gymnast who arrived with her family in February and didn't even have money for a bus ride from Miami International Airport. All had the means to obtain visas and travel to the United States. But they are arriving with a

wanting to find a way to try and get their relatives out. Most are middle-class families with limited finances. "In the last two weeks I'm seeing an enormous uptick," said Stephanie Green, a Coral Gables attorney who specializes in asylum. Venezuelans have immi-

tions they are fleeing. Francisco Angulo, a broker and the residential president for the Miami Association of Realtors, said the first Venezuelans to settle in Miami after Chavez purchased homes with extra, disposable funds. In the past four years, however,

more are buying with money from whatever they could sell before leaving Venezuela. Venezuelans still remain the top international buyer in Miami, but their share of the market has declined, from 28 percent in 2010 to 14 percent in 2013. □



In this Wednesday, March 5, 2014, Carlos Salamanca tries to start his car in Miami. Salamanca fled Venezuela's increasingly political turmoil with his family in January. He is now living largely out of an old Nissan he purchased for \$1,000. Salamanca was a small business owner in Venezuela and said he fled after receiving threats against his family.

(AP Photo/Christine Armario)

old, worn Nissan. Salamanca had no family or business contacts in the U.S. No property he'd purchased on a previous trip. No idea where the children might attend school. "Once we started getting threats, we couldn't take it anymore," he said of the family's last days in Venezuela. Early waves of Venezuelan immigrants who fled after the late President Hugo Chavez and his socialist government came to power in 1999 came largely from the upper class. They had abundant savings and vacation homes in Miami to turn into permanent residences. These days, Miami's large Venezuelan community is filled increasingly with those from the middle class. They are small business owners like Salamanca. University students and professors who came to teach or attend school

financial cushion that is considerably less secure. "Before people would come, study and go back," said Manuel Gomez, a law professor at Florida International University. "And people weren't willing to sacrifice their social and professional status for a lesser life. People wouldn't be willing to live in a small condo and share a car, whereas now it seems that people are willing to do that." The contrast has come to the fore in recent weeks as protests erupted throughout Venezuela over a long-brooding list of woes: Food shortages, soaring inflation, and a heavy-handed government that has shut off spaces for dissent. At least 18 people have been killed. Immigration attorneys who work in Miami's Venezuelan community said they have been flooded with inquiries from families seeking political asylum or

grated to the U.S. in several notable waves. Some fled early during Chavez's first presidency, and a second exodus occurred after the 2002-03 oil strike, during which Chavez axed 18,000 workers, from mechanics to executives, from the state oil company. There are now almost a quarter million Venezuelans in the U.S., nearly half of them in Florida. The largest concentration resides in the Miami suburb of Doral, where businesses, luxury condos and gated communities sprung up to cater to the growing Venezuelan community. The violence and demonstrations in Venezuela over the past three weeks hasn't yet provoked a new surge in migration to Miami, but those who are coming reflect the shifting demographic of Venezuelans choosing to start over in a foreign country and the deteriorating condi-

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## Foreign influx gives annual tech event an international flavor

JENNA WORTHAM

© 2014 New York Times

Going to the South by Southwest technology, music and film festival has long been about discovering the next big thing.

It is where many tech enthusiasts learned to use a new messaging service called Twitter. It was the first place many heard Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg speak. More than a few investors have arrived at the sprawling conference in Austin, Texas, in search of interesting young companies, particularly in social media. And it does not hurt if that young company rents a house and serves lots of free drinks.

But this year, conference attendees may have to think a little more globally. Many Silicon Valley companies are not making the trip. Instead, the nifty new thing that captures the attention and social calendars of attendees could be from South Korea, Brazil, Europe or Africa.

Thanks in part to Facebook spending as much as \$19 billion on WhatsApp, a messaging app made by a Sil-

icon Valley company that was relatively unknown in the U.S. but had tremendous adoption outside of it, the startup world is learning to look globally for new ideas and fresh ways to make money.

One place to look may be among WhatsApp competitors. Hahn Ryu, project coordinator for the Korean startups at the conference, said the rapid growth of companies like KakaoTalk and Line, messaging apps that have become popular in parts of Asia, have ignited something of a fever.

"A few years ago, most people wanted to get hired by Samsung," he said, referring to people in South Korea. "And now, people are showing more interest in starting their own companies."

Hugh Forrest, director of the interactive portion of SXSW, as the festival is known, said attendees had registered from 74 different countries, up from 54 last year.

"It is reflective of the growing global startup market that we're all vaguely aware of," he said.

The conference's interna-



An event space for Hackney House, meant to showcase East London's creativity, is constructed for the South by Southwest Festival's technology conference, in Austin, Texas, March 6, 2014. Many Silicon Valley companies aren't going to the technology, music and film festival this year, but a foreign influx is giving the annual event an international flavor.

(Ben Sklar/The New York Times)

tional flavor can be seen in several panels, including one titled "The Next Steve Jobs May Be From Africa," and another called "Seizing the Mobile Opportunity in Latin America." In addition, several countries, with the support of their governments, are erecting houses and pop-up villages for conference attendees.

The international slant is a drift away from the historical roots of the conference and perhaps to a new generation of international startups. In past years, SXSW has been a marketing bonanza for social media companies, including Twitter, Foursquare, GroupMe, Path and Highlight.

This year? They are passing. Perhaps it is because unlike the aspiring startups from other countries, they have been noticed. That was the case with app-creator Adam Ludwin. Last year, Ludwin rented a Korean taco truck from midnight to 4 a.m. and gave free food away to anyone who downloaded and installed his app, a photo-sharing service called Albumatic.

He said it was "incredibly useful for us, but in a surprising way - not as marketing, but as feedback." Eventually, the app changed into something else and now,

Ludwin is working on a new service called Ether. But he has no plans to trot it out in Austin this year.

"We can do a lot of learning without going to SXSW," he said in an email message. Even Foursquare, a company that dominated SXSW in recent years with lavish parties, afternoon pop-up games and free coffee and breakfast tacos for attendees, decided not to participate this year.

"We've got some things we're going to roll out in the springtime, so we decided to keep people and resources in NYC and SF focused on building the future instead of the massive presence we've had at SXSW in the past," said Brendan Lewis, a spokesman for the company.

GroupMe, the messaging application that was acquired by Skype in 2011, had a big presence in Austin for the last two years, handing out free grilled-cheese sandwiches and cups of beer while encouraging attendees to download their application.

This year, the company "just didn't have the bandwidth to throw a party and give out sandwiches down there," said Chris Connolly, a spokesman for GroupMe. Forrest, who organizes

the technology portion of SXSW, said that while it was "frustrating and disappointing" that companies that had helped put the conference on the map as a place for innovative social technologies were skipping this year, he was encouraged by the influx of new entrepreneurs.

"I think it's good that there's a little bit of churn," he said. "What you want is fresh blood."

Forrest said that although SXSW technology conferences had largely focused on social media, much of this year's programming centered on privacy, online security and surveillance.

And Silicon Valley's hot companies are not completely ignoring the conference. The founders of the anonymous messaging app companies Secret and Whisper, for example, plan to speak on a panel Friday and will be at the conference all weekend.

Also, Edward J. Snowden, the former government contractor who has leaked thousands of documents related to government surveillance, and Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, are expected to speak at SXSW via videoconference. □



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## Extremist group criticizes Syria's al-Qaida branch

**BASSEM MROUE**  
Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — An al-Qaida-breakaway group said Friday that it faces a war with rival Islamic factions who want to destroy it, describing Syria's al-Qaida-linked branch as the "front of betrayal and treason" in a message that could lead to more bloodshed.

The statement by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant came a week after the leader of the powerful al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front gave the breakaway faction a five-day ultimatum to accept mediation by leading clerics to end infighting or be "expelled" from the region.

Battles between the rival groups that began in early January have killed more than 3,000 people, activists say. The fighting, in which the Nusra Front is backed by other Islamic groups, has concentrated in northern Syria and has been the deadliest between opposition fighters since the country's crisis began three years ago.

The Islamic State's spokesman, Abu Mohammed al-Adnani, said in a 22-minute audio clip posted on jihadi websites that his group's rivals tried to defeat it "when they saw it was getting more powerful."

"They resorted to force and thought that they would be able to wipe it with few days or hours. They prepared for a military campaign all over Syria and accompanied it with a propaganda campaign to harm the image of the (Islamic) State and turn the people against it," al-Adnani said.

Last week, Abu Mohammed al-Golani, the Nusra Front's leader, suggested arbitration by clerics to stop the infighting. He warned the Islamic State that it would be driven from Syria and "even from Iraq" if it rejected the results of arbitration. He did not elaborate on how his group might do that. □

## Ukraine:

# Oligarchs get key posts in bid for unity

**MARIA DANILOVA**  
Associated Press

**KIEV, Ukraine (AP)** — In a surprising move after Russia flexed its military might in the Crimean Peninsula, Ukraine's new leadership has reached out to oligarchs for help — appointing them as governors in eastern regions where loyalties to Moscow are strong. With their wealth, influence and self-interest in preventing further conflict, the oligarchs could be the key to calming tensions and maintaining Ukraine's control in areas where pro-Russian activists have stoked separatist tensions.

But the decision to appoint the country's richest men as regional administrators has its risks. Some believe the oligarchs, who have a history of manipulating governments, may become too entrenched in their new jobs and could use their posts for personal gain. The unexpected move drew instant ire from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who called one of the oligarchs, Ukraine's third-richest man, Ihor Kolomoisky, a "swindler."

"They name oligarchs, billionaires as governors of eastern regions," Putin said during a news conference earlier this week. "Naturally, people don't accept that." Under Ukrainian law, governors are appointed by the country's president instead of being elected. After President Viktor Yanukovich fled for Russia last month in the wake of mass protests against his government and deadly clashes with police, acting President Oleksandr Turchynov fired Yanukovich's appointees and replaced them with his own.

Kolomoisky, a metals, banking and media tycoon, was named governor of his native region of Dnipropetrovsk, while Serhiy Taruta, the country's 16th-richest man, according to Forbes Ukraine, was named governor of his home Donetsk region. Both oligarchs are seen as pro-European and Kolomoisky's media have

provided sympathetic coverage of the pro-Western protests.

The move comes after other top oligarchs, including the country's richest man and a key backer of Yan-

sia, industry leaders in eastern Ukraine who provide jobs to tens of thousands of Ukrainians are against a split-up. "The oligarchs taking on this responsibility is a demonstration of



**Serhiy Taruta, the newly appointed governor of the Donetsk region, speaks to students in Donetsk, Ukraine, Friday, March 7, 2014. Ukraine's new leadership has reached out to oligarchs for help — appointing Taruta and others as governors in eastern regions where loyalties to Moscow are strong.**

(AP Photo/Sergei Chuzavkov)

ukvoych's Party of Regions, Rinat Akhmetov, called for preserving Ukraine's unity. Experts said the appointments demonstrated that despite its strong ties to Rus-

sia, industry leaders in eastern Ukraine, their commitment to an independent, sovereign and territorially integrated Ukraine," former U.S. Ambassador John Edward Herbst told The Associated

Press. For the head of a Kiev think tank, the decision to appoint the tycoons was a shrewd move.

"It's a creative solution, which was dictated by the current circumstances," said Ihor Burakovsky, of the Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting. "A revolutionary situation requires revolutionary actions."

Kolomoisky, worth \$2.4 billion, according to Forbes, told the AP his task would be to quell any possible unrest in his region, which he said was being fomented by agents from Russia.

"I hope that my presence in the region will help cool the few hotheads that are present here and stabilize the situation, to bring calm so that the citizens of Ukraine living in the Dnipropetrovsk region would feel safe," Kolomoisky said in a telephone interview.

Asked whether he feared Russian troops in eastern Ukraine, Kolomoisky voiced hope there would be no violence. □

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## UK anti-terror officer moved after scandal

**JILL LAWLESS**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — London's top counterterrorism police officer was removed from his post Friday after he was implicated in a report that concluded the force spied on the family of a murdered teenager — a notorious killing whose aftermath exposed police racism and incompetence. Cmdr. Richard Walton was transferred to a backroom job, London's police force said, following publication of a report on the killing of Stephen Lawrence, who was stabbed in a racist attack at a bus stop in 1993. No one was convicted of the murder for almost 20 years, and the botched case is seen as one of the biggest failures in the history of British policing. The report by senior lawyer Mark Ellison found that an undercover policeman spied on Lawrence's relatives during a public inquiry into the force's handling of the case in the late 1990s. That inquiry concluded that the force was "institutionally racist."

Walton was one of the police officers assigned to make submissions to the inquiry. The report found he had a "completely improper" meeting with the undercover officer while it was underway. Ellison also found evidence that the original investigation was tainted by corruption. One of the investigating officers, John Davidson, was suspected of having links to Clifford Norris, a gangster whose son David was one of the suspects.

## Conservatives pick Juncker to seek top EU job

**SHAWN POGATCHNIK**  
**Associated Press**

**DUBLIN (AP)** — Conservative politicians from across

at the conclusion of a two-day European People's Party convention in Dublin, where he defeated Michel

sion chief after 10 years in the job. Juncker, 59, was always favorite after receiving criti-

become president versus European Parliament leader Martin Schulz, a German whom the Socialists picked as their candidate for the commission presidency four months ago.

"We are lagging a little bit behind," Juncker said in comments translated from French.

"We have to catch up to the Socialists and Mr. Schulz very quickly." New rules give the largest party emerging from European Parliament elections in May the best chance to secure the leadership of the commission, the executive branch of the EU.

Juncker, a veteran EU dealmaker with an easy-going charm, was one of Europe's longest-serving government leaders as premier of tiny Luxembourg from 1995 to 2013. In his dual role as the duchy's finance minister, he led the Eurogroup of finance chiefs overseeing the euro — and efforts to defend the common currency during Europe's debt crisis — from 2005 to 2013.



**Jean-Claude Juncker, left, with Jose Manuel Barroso President of the European Commission, Conservative politicians from across Europe are electing their candidate to succeed Jose Manuel Barroso as president of the European Commission, the most powerful post in the European Union, after being voted as the next candidate for the president of the European commission, during the European People's Party Elections Congress at the convention centre, Dublin, Ireland, Friday, March 7, 2014.**

**(AP Photo/Peter Morrison)**

Europe have elected former Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker as their candidate for the presidency of the European Commission, the most powerful post in the European Union.

Juncker triumphed Friday

Barnier of France. Juncker received 382 votes to 245 for Barnier, the commission's internal markets minister.

Jose Manuel Barroso of Portugal, the conservative bloc's previous choice, is stepping down as commis-

cal backing from German Chancellor Angela Merkel, whose Christian Democratic Union was the largest voting bloc in a conference involving 49 parties from the EU's 28 nations.

Juncker conceded he faces a tough challenge to

## German president visits Greece massacre site

**Associated Press**

**LIGIADES, Greece (AP)** — A visibly emotional German president apologized profoundly Friday for a massacre by German soldiers in a northwestern Greek village during World War II, at the end of a three-day visit that combined political talks with efforts to bring closure to wounds from the wartime German occupation. Speaking at a hillside monument in Ligiades, Joachim Gauck expressed "shame" at the 1943 atrocity when

Nazi troops executed dozens of villagers, including months-old babies, in reprisal for a partisan attack. He was accompanied by Greek President Karolos Papoulias, a resistance fighter as a teenager who comes from the nearby town of Ioannina. "I wish to articulate what the perpetrators, and those who were politically responsible for so many years in the postwar period did not want, or were not able to utter," Gauck said. "That what happened here

was a brutal injustice, and it is with feelings of shame and pain that I beg forgiveness from the families of those who were murdered." His apology came at a time of increased anti-German sentiment, as Berlin — the largest single contributor to Greece's bailout — has been one of the most ardent proponents of austerity measures imposed in return for billions of euros in rescue loans. That resentment has fuelled growing calls for Germany to pay

Greece reparations for the brutal 1941-44 occupation and restitution for a forced wartime loan to Germany. After the wreath-laying ceremony, about a dozen people at Ligiades unfurled a banner reading "reparations and justice," and chanted "justice, justice." The two presidents then visited Ioannina's synagogue where Gauck spoke with Jewish community members, including nonagenarian survivors of Nazi death camps.



# Hundreds of Colombian paramilitaries set for release

LIBARDO CARDONA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— One veteran of Colombia's disbanded far-right militias admitted to ordering or taking part in at least 3,000 killings, mostly targeting leftists, and incinerating many of the corpses to destroy evidence.

Another ordered a hit on a prominent intellectual who had been unjustly accused of backing insurgents and kept evidence on his laptop that helped convict Colombia's then-national spy chief in the killing.

Those two men and about 400 other right-wing paramilitaries are due to walk free this year after serving eight-year sentences for crimes that normally carry more than triple the prison terms.

The first is expected to be released within days.

Their lenient sentences were enshrined in a 2005 "Justice and Peace" law that provided a legal framework for the militias' supposed dismantling under a peace deal with the government of then-President Alvaro Uribe.

Human rights activists say the releases, expected to begin this month, are both premature and perilous for a country that many believe is on the cusp of making peace with leftist rebels. Activists also say prosecutors failed the nation by neglecting to completely investigate the paramilitaries' crimes and ensure that they paid just restitution to their victims, as the law stipulates.

Victims of the paramilitaries fear they won't just go back to committing non-political crimes such as drug trafficking and extortion but will also resume killing displaced farmers trying to reclaim land that was stolen from, most often, by far-right militias.

"They've told us they are afraid of the paramilitaries getting out," said Ivan Cepeda, a leftist congressman and longtime victims' rights advocate. "It's a feeling of great concern and anxiety."

There are also fears that,

with 14-month-old peace talks with the FARC progressing, right-wing death squads could re-emerge and target guerrillas who may put down their guns and take up electoral politics.

Prosecutors say the releases will be gradual and vow to keep a close eye on the newly freed and throw them back in jail if they break a single law.

Formed by ranchers and drug traffickers to counter rebel kidnapping and extortion, far-right paramilitaries killed at least 156,000 people between 1980 and 2004, prosecutors estimate. They also violently stole land, which President Juan Manuel Santos' government is trying to restore. Many of those due to be released this year were second-tier militia commanders. Several were top honchos.

Ramon Isaza, who is due to be released in October, created the first of the right-wing militias at the end of the 1970s in the Magdalena Valley, where they received training from corrupt military officers and foreign mercenaries led by the retired Israeli military officer Yair Klein.

It was from such beginnings that the United Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC, gained purchase, committing a series of horrific massacres in the late 1990s — at the very time rebels of the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, were gaining strength, consistently routing the country's regular armed forces on the battlefield.

With the close financial, logistical and intelligence support of the United States, President Uribe reversed the litany of armed forces' defeats and, a provincial rancher himself, persuaded AUC leaders, many of them major drug traffickers, to demobilize.

One second-tier leader, Edgar Ignacio Fierro, kept files in his computer detailing 550 murders and other crimes committed across Colombia's entire Caribbean coast by the AUC. The

most prominent victim was Alfredo Correa de Andreis, a human rights defender shot dead by assassins in September 2004 in the coastal city of Barranquilla. State agents had months

earlier trumped up subversion charges against Correa, later discredited, claiming he was a key rebel ideologue.

Seven years after his murder, the documents from

Fierro's laptop helped convict Jorge Noguera, then director of the DAS domestic intelligence agency, for the crime. Noguera was sentenced to 25 years in prison. □



In this August, 2005 photo, paramilitary fighters from the "Heroes of Granada" faction of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC, attend a demobilization ceremony in Cristales, Colombia. Hundreds of right-wing paramilitaries are expected to walk free from prison beginning in March 2014 after serving eight-year sentences for crimes that normally carry more than triple the prison terms. Their lenient sentences were enshrined in a 2005 "Justice and Peace" law that provided a legal framework for the militias' supposed dismantling under a peace deal with the government of then-President Alvaro Uribe.

(AP Photo/Luis Benavides)



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# As US allows pot sales, Dutch reverse course

**MIKE CORDER**  
**Associated Press**  
**MAASTRICHT, Netherlands (AP)** — A young man at a bus stop hisses at a passer-by: "What you looking for ... marijuana?"

It's a scene of street peddling that the Netherlands hoped to stamp out in the 1970s when it launched a policy of tolerating "coffee shops" where people could buy and smoke pot freely.

But Maastricht's street dealers are back, local residents complain. And the reason is a crackdown on coffee-shops triggered by another problem: Pot tourists who crossed the border to visit the cafes and made a nuisance of themselves by snarling traffic, dumping litter and even urinating in the streets.

This exchange of one drug problem for another has become a headache for Maastricht — and may give reason for pause in the U.S. states of Washington and Colorado that recently allowed the sale of marijuana for the first time. The Netherlands, the world pioneer in pot liberalization, has recently taken a harder line toward marijuana, with mixed results seen particularly in border towns such as Maastricht.

The central government clampdown has involved banning people who live outside the Netherlands from coffee shops, and shuttering shops that are deemed to be too close to schools. There was even a short-lived policy that said smokers had to apply for a "Weed Pass" to get into a coffee shop. The new rules were rolled out across the country between the middle of 2012 and the beginning of last year.

But while the central government made the rules, it's up to local municipalities to enforce them — and most are embracing only part of the policy.

Amsterdam — with some 200 licensed coffee shops, one-third of the nationwide total — still lets foreigners visit them, although it is closing coffee shops that are near schools.

One city that has embraced the crackdown whole-heartedly is Maastricht, in the southern province of Limburg close to the Dutch borders with Belgium and Germany.

Its mayor, Onno Hoes, says he enforced the legislation to halt a daily influx

of foreigners has dried up. But the atmosphere in town has turned darker as street dealers now aggressively badger any potential clients and fight among themselves, Berghmans says.

"Now the drug runners are trying to sell on the street

Experts also question the Dutch policy change.

August de Loor has for years run a bureau in Amsterdam that gives drug advice aimed at minimizing health risks for users as well as testing party drugs such as ecstasy for purity. He says coffee shops once



**An unidentified visitor smokes a joint in coffee shop Mississippi in Maastricht, southern Netherlands. While several U.S. states have moved to legalize the sale of marijuana, the Netherlands is going in the opposite direction, clamping down on its famed tolerance policy toward weed. In Maastricht, attempts to ban foreigners from buying weed have led to a resurgence of street-dealers, while Amsterdam is shutting marijuana cafes located too close to schools.**

(AP Photo/Ermino Armino)

of thousands of foreigners who crossed the borders to stock up on pot at its 14 coffee shops. That effort to end so-called "drug tourism" has been successful, local residents say, but the flip side has been a rise in street dealers like the man who recently tried to sell pot to an AP reporter in Maastricht.

Carol Berghmans lives close to the River Maas, whose muddy waters bisect the city, and whose banks are frequented by dealers he sees as he walks his dog each day.

He says there were certainly problems before the crackdown as cars filled with pot tourists poured into the cobbled streets of central Maastricht — but he described the atmosphere as "gezellig," a Dutch word that loosely translates as cozy or convivial.

Since coffee shops were banned from selling to non-residents, the num-

ber of foreigners has dried up. But the atmosphere in town has turned darker as street dealers now aggressively badger any potential clients and fight among themselves, Berghmans says.

"We have a feeling our approach is working," Bos said, "but we do still have to work on the street dealers."

Easy Going coffee shop, in a street linking Maastricht's historic market square with the Maas, has been shut for months as its owner, Marc Josemans, refuses to adhere to the rule about selling only to Dutch residents.

"I won't discriminate," he explains. He is fighting a legal battle against the new rules and expects the Dutch Supreme Court to issue a ruling soon on whether turning away non-Dutch residents is constitutional.

played an important role not only in keeping cannabis users away from hard drugs like heroin, but also educating them about safely using pot and providing a meeting place for people who would rather smoke a joint than drink a beer.

"That special element of the Dutch model makes coffee shops unique in the world," he said, "and that is gradually fading away." One part of the Dutch drug experience that has remained illegal is commercial cultivation of weed. Meaning that while coffee shops are tolerated — and taxed — the people who supply them are not.

In January, a group of 35 municipalities, including both Amsterdam and Maastricht, called on the central government to allow regulated growing, saying it would take the harvest out of the hands of organized crime. □

## Euro at highest level versus dollar since Oct. 2011

**PAN PYLAS**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — The euro has struck its highest level against the dollar for nearly two and a half years in the wake of the European Central Bank's decision not to cut interest rates further. At one point Friday, the currency, which is used by 18 European Union countries, rose to \$1.3917, its highest rate since it touched \$1.4170 in October 2011.

The currency backed off after a slightly stronger than anticipated U.S. jobs report for February. The 175,000 increase in payrolls was ahead of the consensus forecast in markets for a rise of about 150,000. As a result, analysts said the U.S. Federal Reserve would likely continue reducing its monetary stimulus, providing a fillip to the dollar.

But analysts think the euro is on course to climb further over the coming days, largely as a result of Thursday's decision by the ECB to not cut interest rates following a run of relatively upbeat economic data across the eurozone.

For weeks, many traders had been predicting that the ECB would cut its key interest rate from the already record low of 0.25 percent to boost the muted economic recovery and prevent deflation, a debilitating bout of falling prices. However, after a rise in surveys of business activity and unexpectedly strong 0.3 percent growth in the final quarter of 2013, the ECB opted against further easing measures.

"As a result the market judged that the prospects of further ECB monetary stimulus this cycle had diminished," said Jane Foley, senior currency strategist at Rabobank international. Europe's single currency has been steadily rising from around \$1.22 since the summer of 2012, when ECB President Mario Draghi said he would do "whatever it takes" to save the euro.

With fewer traders thinking a breakup of the currency union was possible. □





## SETAR and SIDN sign cooperation agreement on .aw, the top-level domain for Aruba

### ARNHEM/ORANJESTAD

SETAR, the local telecom operator and registry for Aruba's country-code domain .aw, has signed a cooperation agreement with SIDN (the Foundation for Internet Domain Registration in the Netherlands). Under the agreement, SIDN will provide registry services for .aw. SETAR will use SIDN's systems for registering .aw domain names and for administering the .aw domain. The agreement is for an initial period of five years. From 1 March, SIDN will make a new registration system available, plus related systems such as a Who is and an extension to SETAR's DNS infrastructure. In addition, all existing .aw domain names have been migrated to the new system. A fresh .aw zone file will be generated and published on the upgraded DNS infrastructure every two hours by the SIDN-operated registration system. Although the arrival of new gTLDs (generic top-level domains) means that the number of registry service providers seeking to administer new domains is growing all the time, careful consideration led SETAR to choose SIDN as its part-



ner for the professionalization of .aw. SIDN has administered the .nl domain for more than fifteen years and has consequently built up a great deal of expertise in the field of domain names. SIDN is also widely recognised as one of the most secure and reliable registries in the world.

### SETAR

SETAR is Aruba's telecommunications sector pioneer and leader. As the national telecoms company, SETAR strives to use innovative technology to constantly

introduce the latest products and services to Aruba,

domain names using the extension has increased

SIDN is responsible for the functional stability and development of the .nl internet domain. There are now more than five million registered .nl domain names and SIDN handles more than a billion search queries every day. SIDN is well respected in the fields of governance and administration, where it operates as an expert partner on technical, legal and policy matters relating to domain names and the domain name infrastructure. From that basis, SIDN is also closely involved with various wider community initiatives, with the emphasis on increasing the security, reliability, openness and accessibility of the internet. Because the internet plays



and to provide customers with the best possible value for money. SETAR provides telephony, internet and GSM services, and administers Aruba's country-code domain, .aw. The .aw domain has been active since 1995 and demand for

in recent years. SETAR is a wholly Aruban company, dedicated to ensuring that local people and visitors always have access to the communications services they need.

**SIDN**

an increasingly important role in the economy and society, SIDN supports various local and international initiatives, through which government, the business community and the scientific community work together to achieve innovation. □



## With special recognition to Herbert Croes and Jose da Silva: Marriott Surf Club guests grateful for taxi drivers' act of kindness



**PALM BEACH** - Mr. and Mrs. Fazio, timeshare owners at the Marriott Surf Club, were extremely happy when taxi drivers Herbert Croes (taxi #219) and Jose da Silva (taxi #150) went above and beyond to locate and return their missing valuables. On Carnival Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Fazio checked

in at the Marriott Surf Club for their long awaited two weeks' vacation when they noticed that they were missing their travel pocketbook containing all their valuables such as passports, credit cards, cash and dinner certificates. Consequently, they ran outside to get a cab to return to the airport to

look for their pocketbook. While talking to the bellman, taxi driver Herbert overheard the guests' story and felt their concern and right away offered to help. He promised Mr. and Mrs. Fazio that he will locate their travel pocketbook. At the airport, Herbert was able to identify the taxi driver who dropped off Mr.



and Mrs. Fazio at the Marriott Surf Club and contacted him instantly to check if the pocketbook was left behind in his car. Taxi driver Jose da Silva responded with urgency and drove straight to the airport to deliver the pocketbook to the couple. Mr. and Mrs. Fazio were extremely happy and grateful for the heroic deed of the two gentlemen. To show their appreciation, Mr. and Mrs. Fazio arranged a public recognition to openly thank Herbert and Jose for their

immense help. Mrs. Fazio read a paragraph from a book out loud to Herbert highlighting that God heard their prayer and put Herbert in their path at the right place and time. Mr. and Mrs. Fazio have been visiting Aruba since 1999 annually. They enjoy the island and its people. "This is another amazing example why we choose to visit Aruba yearly. It is because of the kind people of Aruba that make our stay feel special," expressed Mr. Fazio smiling. □

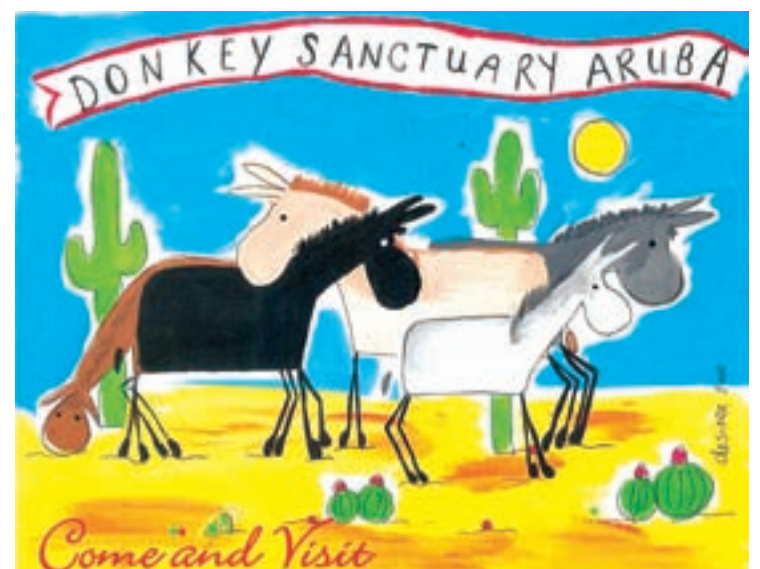
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# Loyal visitors honored at the Divi Phoenix Resort!



**PALM BEACH** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice families whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic hon-



orary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Marcello and Maria Sciota of Ferrara, Italy, and Woody Whitbeck and Linda Chadbourne of Pembroke, New Hampshire. All the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Phoenix and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches,



restaurants and Casinos, and because the people are like family on Aruba, and the Divi Phoenix is their home away from home.

The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Avril, Pedro Vargas and Gerritt Griffith representing the Divi Phoenix. □

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## A day of survival at Cadillac Championship

By **DOUG FERGUSON**  
 AP Golf Writer

**DORAL, Fla. (AP)** -- The new Doral in raging wind looked a lot like an old U.S. Open on Friday. Matt Kuchar played out of the rough to tap-in range for birdie on the 18th hole for a 2-over 74 that allowed him to join an exclusive group at the Cadillac Championship - one of only four survivors to par. The Blue Monster gobbled up just about everyone else.

Dustin Johnson bogeyed three of his last six holes for a 74. Patrick Reed made only two birdies in his round of 75. Hunter Mahan atoned for a triple bogey with a short eagle putt for a round of 74. They joined Kuchar atop the leaderboard at 1-under 143.

Only three players broke par in the second round. No one shot in the 60s. The average score was a fraction under 76.

"I don't think I've played in conditions this difficult in the U.S.," Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland said after a 71 that left him one shot behind. "It's an Open Championship day. It's a real Friday afternoon at St. Andrews in 2010 before they called it. It was hard out there - really, really hard."

Rory McIlroy (74), Francesco Molinari (75) and Jamie Donaldson of Wales (70) also were one behind at even-par 144.

Tiger Woods hit three balls in the water and scraped out a 73, thanks in part to a 90-foot birdie putt on the par-3 fourth hole. Phil Mickelson made back-to-back double bogeys, and then laid on his back along the bank of the fourth tee during a long wait. He got up, hit into the water and made another double bogey. Lefty shot 75.

Both were still in the mix, only six shots behind.

"It's a tough golf course as it is," Reed said. "And with how hard the wind is blowing, it made it even tougher. Almost felt like we were playing at a major today." At times, it looked even worse. Fist pumps were replaced by players stretching out their arm to take a penalty drop from the water - more than 100 balls in the water, which is everywhere on the course that Gil Hanse redesigned under the direction of new owner Donald Trump.

Trump described it as bold. It turned out to be brutal. And just like a U.S. Open, there were plenty of complaints.

*Continued on Page 22*



Hunter Mahan hits onto the seventh green during the second round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament on Friday, March 7, 2014, in Doral, Fla.

## Sweden defeats U.S. to end 43-game unbeaten run

**ALBUFEIRA, Portugal (AP)** — Sweden eked out a 1-0 victory over the United States to end the American women's 43-game unbeaten run and deny them any chance of reaching the Algarve Cup final, which Germany reached on Friday after clinching its group. Sweden goalkeeper Hedvig Lindahl saved Abby Wambach's penalty be-

fore Lotta Schelin headed home what proved to be the 24th-minute winner.

The U.S. dominated at the Municipal Stadium but, just as in the 1-1 draw against Japan, the nine-time tournament winner could not make that quality count. In the closing moments Lindahl denied chances from substitutes Kristie Mewis and Sarah Hagen before Mewis shot wide

from close range in stoppage time.

Sweden leads Group B with six points, while Japan is second with four points after Mana Iwabuchi's first-half free kick fired it to a 1-0 win over Denmark. Japan must beat Sweden in its final group game since only the group winner reaches the final. Germany ensured its place in the final with a

1-0 victory over China as the European champions secured Group A with one game in hand.

"I'm very satisfied. That was hard work today," Germany coach Silvia Neid said.

Anja Mittag scored the only goal with six minutes to play as Germany followed up its win over Iceland with a hard-fought victory that took it to six

points — three better than China and Iceland, with Norway pointless. Germany's wins over China and Iceland means it will advance even if it ends level on six points.

"We're now in the final and we're looking forward to the next strong opponents," captain Celia Sasic said.

*Continued on Page 21*



# Sabres win, Enroth ruins Stamkos' return

The Associated Press

**TAMPA, Florida (AP)** — Jho-nas Enroth made 43 saves to spoil the return of Tampa Bay star Steven Stamkos and the Buffalo Sabres beat the Lightning 3-1 on Thursday night.

Stamkos had been sidelined since breaking his right shin Nov. 11 at Boston, causing him to miss 45 games. The center received a partial standing ovation during pregame introductions, when it was announced that he is the new team captain.

Right wing Ryan Callahan, acquired Wednesday from the New York Rangers for former Tampa Bay captain Martin St. Louis, made his Lightning debut.

Tyler Myers, Marcus Foligno and Cody Hodgson scored for the Sabres. Enroth stopped a combined seven shots by Stamkos (three) and Callahan (four) through two periods.

**KINGS 3, JETS 1**

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP)** — Mike Richards scored the go-ahead goal on a giveaway by the Winnipeg Jets to lift the Los Angeles Kings to their sixth straight victory.

Dustin Brown scored Los Angeles' first goal and Alec Martinez added a third-period power-play goal. Jonathan Quick made 17 saves for the Kings (36-22-6).

Olli Jokinen had his 15th goal for Winnipeg (30-27-7) and Ondrej Pavelec stopped 38 shots.

Jets defenseman Tobias Enstrom was at the boards by the Kings' bench and made a pass across the ice that was supposed to be for Jokinen, but Richards intercepted it halfway, crossed the blue line and then fired a shot by Pavelec at 16:15 of the second period.

**COYOTES 5, CANADIENS 2**

**GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)** — Radim Vrbata scored two goals and the Phoenix Coyotes bounced back from a shaky second period to beat Montreal, their first win over the Canadiens since 1998.

The Coyotes wanted to jump on Montreal early af-

ter the Canadiens won a six-round shootout against the NHL-leading Anaheim Ducks the night before and did just that, scoring three goals in the first period.

The Canadiens fought back, though, holding the Coyotes to one shot in the second period while setting up Alex Galchenyuk's goal on a two-man advantage. Vrbata made it a two-goal lead in the third period and Shane Doan scored less than 2 minutes later to put it out of reach, giving Phoenix its first winning streak since Jan. 16-18. It was the team's first win over Montreal since Dec. 9, 1998, in Arizona. Andrei Markov had a goal and an assist, and P.K. Subban had a pair of assists for Montreal.

**BRUINS 3, CAPITALS 0**

**BOSTON (AP)** — Tuukka Rask got the first win of his career against Washington, Gregory Campbell and Loui Eriksson scored second-period goals and the Boston Bruins beat the Capitals 3-0.

Rask's sixth shutout of the season and 22nd of his career came just five days after the Capitals beat him 4-2, also in Boston. But since then Washington is 0-3 and Boston is 3-0.

Rask was 0-3-3 against the Capitals, but was rarely challenged Thursday when his teammates' tight checking limited Washington's opportunities. Capitals goalie Braden Holtby suffered his first loss against the Bruins after winning the first four matchups of his career.

Boston finished the scoring on Brad Marchand's empty-net goal with 1:34 left.

**AVALANCHE 3, RED WINGS 2, OT**

**DETROIT (AP)** — Andre Benoit scored off an assist from rookie Nathan MacKinnon with 31.4 seconds left in overtime, lifting the Colorado Avalanche over the Detroit Red Wings.

MacKinnon has a point in 13 straight games, breaking Wayne Gretzky's record for an 18-year-old NHL player. Colorado's P.A. Parenteau made it a 2-all game 5:49 into the third period. □



Boston Bruins right wing Reilly Smith (18) gets tripped up as Washington Capitals goalie Braden Holtby, right, makes a save during the first period of an NHL hockey game, Thursday, March 6, 2014, in Boston. Associated Press

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# Tim Duncan leads Spurs past Heat, 111-87

The Associated Press

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — Tim Duncan had 23 points and 11 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs never trailed against the Miami Heat, weathering a sluggish third quarter for an intense and emotional 111-87 victory Thursday.

Tony Parker scored 17 points, including 14 in a wild first half, Boris Diaw added 16 and Kawhi Leonard had 11 for San Antonio, which has won five straight.

Chris Bosh had 24 points, LeBron James added 19, Dwyane Wade had 16 and Michael Beasley 11 for Miami.

James, who ditched the protective mask he was wearing early in the first half, was hounded by Leonard into shooting 6 for 18.

SUNS 128, THUNDER 122

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Gerald Green scored 25 of his career-high 41 points in the third quarter and the Suns



San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, left, talks to guard Tony Parker, of France, during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat on Thursday, March 6, 2014, in San Antonio. San Antonio won 111-87.

Associated Press

erased a 16-point deficit. Markieff Morris added 24 points, including two free throws with 24.4 seconds to

play. Goran Dragic scored 22, including six of the Suns' final 12 points after Oklahoma City led 118-116.

Russell Westbrook scored a season-high 36 for the Thunder. Kevin Durant added 34.

Green's outburst fell one point shy of a Suns record for most points in a quarter set by Stephon Marbury in 2002.

It was Phoenix's second 40-point performance in four games. Dragic had 40 against New Orleans on Friday.

CLIPPERS 142, LAKERS 94

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Blake Griffin had 20 points and 11 rebounds during three thunderous quarters by the Clippers, who routed the Lakers to extend their winning streak to a season-best six games.

Darren Collison had a team-high 24 points while starting at shooting guard for the injured Jamal Crawford. Chris Paul added 13 points and 11 assists for the Clippers, who apparently are trying to make up for decades of humiliation at the hands of the Lakers all in one season; they've won the last two meetings by a combined 84 points. □

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# Canelo Alvarez wants to put Mayweather in past

By TIM DAHLBERG

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Canelo Alvarez gets a pass, if only because everyone who fights Floyd Mayweather Jr. gets a pass.

Lose a second fight to someone not named Mayweather, though, and the red-haired Mexican's star could begin to fade.

"I learned a lot from fighting Floyd, but I'm ready to get back in the ring to maintain the path that I was on before," Alvarez said. "This is what I love to do."

The path Alvarez was on took a detour in September when Mayweather dominated him over 12 rounds, handing Alvarez his first loss. He gets a totally different type of opponent Saturday night, taking on slugger Alfredo Angulo in a junior middleweight fight that likely won't be wanting for action.

The story line against Mayweather was whether a young and strong champion could solve a puzzle no other boxer had been able to. The story line against Angulo will be whether Alvarez can come back from the loss and establish himself again as one of the stars of the sport.

"What happened in September is in the past," Alvarez insisted. "I'm fully concentrated on this fight."

Alvarez didn't pick a walkover for his comeback fight, the first of what he hopes to be three bouts this year. Angulo is a rugged and hard-hitting contender who may come into the ring as a big underdog but will have more than just a puncher's chance.

Angulo was stopped in his last fight by Erislandy Lara after his left eye swelled shut in the 10th round. But he had knocked Lara down twice earlier and was holding his own before suddenly turning his back to Lara in a sign he couldn't go on. "I'm ready to chase him or fight him like a true Mexican warrior," Angulo said. "I plan to test him like he's never been tested before. I don't think anyone has ever hit Canelo as hard as I'm going to hit him."

The fight is part of a pay-per-view card on Showtime that was supposed to include a fight between

IBF light middleweight champion Carlos Molina and challenger Jermall Charlo. That fight was canceled Friday, though, while Molina remained in a Las Vegas jail on a 2007 felony warrant for failing to

himself to his boxing career at the age of 31.

"There were a couple times when I was in the immigration detention center that I wanted to quit," Angulo said. "But my team of lawyers

him a reliable pay-per-view attraction in recent fights.

To do that he must win — and win impressively — against a fighter who might have more guts than talent.



Canelo Alvarez at his workout Wednesday in Las Vegas.

(Esther Lin/Showtime)

register as a sex offender. Promoters elevated a lightweight fight between Ricardo Alvarez, brother of Canelo Alvarez, and Sergio Thompson to the televised spot instead.

Alvarez weighed in at 155 pounds Friday, the contract limit, to 154½ for Angulo.

Angulo (22-3, 18 knockouts) has had his own issues with jail, spending eight months at a detention facility in California after turning himself in for being in the U.S. on an expired visa. The native of Mexico says he has since cleared up his immigration issues, and devoted

always motivated me, wouldn't let me stay down for too long and kept telling me that justice would prevail and that I shouldn't give up. I always dreamed of being a headliner on a major card, and here it is. I am so ready for Saturday."

Alvarez (42-1-1, 30 knockouts) was overmatched in his fight against Mayweather, losing almost every round and never being able to figure out how to get inside Mayweather's defense. He vowed to use his first defeat as a learning experience, though, and wants to regain the stature that has made

"Angulo presents a difficult challenge because he's a fighter who can punch and take a great punch," Alvarez said. "I know I have to prepare and establish my game plan early. But you know how it can be with game plans. Sometimes, once a fight starts, you have to do what you have to do to win."

Angulo said that is just one of the reasons the fight should be an entertaining one, no matter how long it lasts. "Style-wise, this is a great matchup for the fans and both of us," he said. "Fans are going to get a great fight." □

## Sweden U.S.

Continued from Page 18

Earlier, the Americans went into the match knowing only victory would suffice following its opening stalemate with Japan, which was the last country to beat the U.S. — here at

the Algarve Cup two years ago.

U.S. midfielder Amy Rodriguez was taken down inside the area to set up the 15th-minute spot kick, but Lindahl guessed correctly to push Wambach's penalty past the right post.

Wambach was active at the start but the early op-

portunities were forgotten when Sofia Jakobsson won the ball from Ali Krieger in the right corner and sent in a cross that Schlein guided past goalkeeper Hope Solo.

The U.S. did not wilt, however, forcing Sweden into turnovers. The Swedish defense contained well

enough under coach Pia Sundhage against an opponent she also used to coach.

The Americans continued to press with sisters Samantha and Kristie Mewis both coming in to bolster the attack, with Kristie making the bigger impact as she forced Lindahl into a

leg save on a break in the 85th. The U.S. had problems finishing off its opportunities with forward Alex Morgan absent.

Iceland beat Norway 2-1 in the other Group A match. The U.S., which has one point, plays pointless Denmark in its final group game. □



# Hewitt wins at Indian Wells, closes on 600 wins

**JIM SHORT**

**Associated Press**

**INDIAN WELLS, California (AP)** — Lleyton Hewitt scratched out a 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-3 victory over fellow Australian Matthew Ebden on Thursday in the first round of the BNP Paribas Open to move within one of joining the ATP Tour's 600-win club.

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are the only active players to have reached the milestone. The 33-year-old Hewitt will face 17th-seeded Kevin Anderson in the second round.

"I've always been pretty successful," said Hewitt, who won his 29th career title this year by beating Federer in the final at Brisbane, Australia.

Hewitt won the 29th title of his career by beating Federer in the final at Brisbane this year and said his most valuable asset in his 15-plus years on the tour is "that never-say-die attitude; hang in there and fight for every point."

He did that against Eb-

den, shaking off the loss of a 5-1 lead in the first set to win the final five points of a tiebreaker, after Ebden slipped and fell pursuing a ball, and finally holding serve to close the match after being up 5-1 in the final set.

With all seeded players receiving a bye through to the second round, most interest centered on who would win through to meet the key players.

Czech veteran Radek Stepanek won through to a second-round clash with top seed Rafael Nadal by beating Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, while another Czech, Lukas Rosol, set up a meeting with Andy Murray by edging Serb qualifier Dusan Lajovic 6-7 (2), 7-5, 6-4.

Big-serving Croat Ivo Karlovic progressed to a match against Stan Wawrinka by beating Alex Bogomolov Jr. 6-4, 6-4, while France's Paul-Henri Mathieu earned a meeting with Roger Federer by defeating Robbie Ginepri 6-2, 6-3.



**Lleyton Hewitt, of Australia, returns a shot against Matthew Ebden, of Australia, during a first round match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Thursday, March 6, 2014, in Indian Wells, Calif.**

**Associated Press**

In women's draw, Jie Zheng set up a clash with Chinese compatriot and top seed Li Na by defeating Argentina's Paula Ormaechea 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5), while Germany's Julia Goerges will meet Maria Sharapova in the second round after a 6-1, 2-6, 6-3 victory over Slovakia's Jana Cepelova. □

# Sports medicine pioneer Frank Jobe dies at 88

**BETH HARRIS**

**AP Sports Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Dr. Frank Jobe, a pioneering orthopedic surgeon who was the first to perform an elbow procedure that became known as Tommy John surgery and saved the careers of countless major league pitchers, died Thursday. He was 88.

Jobe died in Santa Monica after being hospitalized recently with an undisclosed illness, according to a spokesman for the Los Angeles Dodgers. Jobe performed groundbreaking elbow surgery on John, a Dodgers

pitcher who had a ruptured medial collateral ligament in his left elbow. The injury previously had no solution until Jobe removed a tendon from John's forearm and repaired his elbow.

John went on to pitch 14 years after the operation on Sept. 25, 1974, compiling 164 more victories without ever missing a start because of an elbow problem.

"Today I lost a GREAT friend," John tweeted.

Last year, the initial surgery and the relationship between John and Jobe was the subject of an ESPN documentary. □

# A day of survival at Cadillac Championship

**Continued from Page 18**

The greens were always going to be firm because the course was built in under a year. There was always going to be concern about the sharp edges of fairways and greens that sent balls down the bank and into the water. Throw in gusts that topped 30 mph, and any score was possible on any hole.

"The setup is horrendous," Webb Simpson said after a 78 that included a bunker shot that went onto and over the seventh green and into the water. "Even if we had a 10 mph wind, it still would have been bad. I played terrible. I want to get that out there. But when you have conditions like this, and a setup like this, so much luck comes

into play."

Henrik Stenson prefaced his comments by saying, "How do you say something you might regret the rest of your life?"

So he didn't.

Stenson, part of the Nos. 1-2-3 grouping from the world ranking, had a 76 and joined Woods at 5-over 149. Masters champion Adam Scott, the other member of that illustrious trio, had a 73 and was at 4-over 148. The group was a combined 14-over par for the tournament.

Stenson was walking off the 15th green Friday morning while finishing up the rain-delayed first round. Spotting a small group of reporters, he said, "Are you having fun watching?" And then as he walked away, he smiled and said,

"Because it's sure as hell not any fun to be playing." Johnson managed for the longest time. Even as everyone was succumbing to par, he was at 3 under with a birdie on No. 12. But he dropped a shot on the par-3 13th. His short iron into the 15th hit the green and rolled over the back and into the water. And on the 18th, his fairway bunker shot came out too strong and over the green, and he missed a 6-foot par putt that would have given him the outright lead.

The forecast is for less wind on the weekend, and surely a sigh of relief from the players.

And this World Golf Championship is wide open.

"We've all got a shot at it now," Woods said. "No one is going anywhere." □



**Tiger Woods holds the ball after making par on the 10th hole during the second round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament Friday, March 7, 2014, in Doral, Fla.**

**Associated Press**



# Samsung introduces free streaming radio service

BREE FOWLER

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Samsung on Friday unveiled a new free music service for its phones that it touts as a significant improvement from the apps already on the market.

The South Korean gadget maker's Milk Music service, which launched in the U.S. on Friday, includes over 200 stations and 13 million songs. It's designed to be extremely fast, easy to use and highly customizable. But the new service enters an already crowded space. There are numerous

streaming music services, including Pandora, Spotify and Apple Inc.'s iTunes Radio.

"We feel that while the music space is very competitive there is room for improvement," said Daren Tsui, vice president of music at Samsung Media Solutions.

Samsung's app features a large wheel reminiscent of an old-fashioned radio tuner. Users can spin through various genres of music to find something they like. Favorite stations can be added to a "My Stations" section, while individual songs

can be tagged as favorites or put on a list never to be played.

Milk is powered by Slacker, which operates its own streaming music service. But unlike Slacker, Milk is ad-free at no cost. While Slacker does offer a basic service for free, it charges users \$4 a month to remove advertising.

U.S. users can now download the Milk app from Google Play. It works on most of Samsung's Galaxy line of phones, but isn't compatible with devices made by other companies. □



This undated image provided by Samsung shows the logo for the new free music service for its phones that the company unveiled on Friday, March 7, 2014. Samsung touts the service as a significant improvement from the apps already on the market.

Associated Press

## MasterCard, Visa plan group focused on security

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Visa and MasterCard are forming a group that's intended to help the retail and banking industries come together on more-secure credit card payments.

Credit card breaches at Neiman Marcus, Target and other retailers have put a spotlight on the weak spots in the security of credit card payments.

Visa and MasterCard, which run the networks that carry the payments, said Friday the new group will include banks, retailers, the makers of credit card readers, and others with an interest in credit card security.

The group's initial focus will be on chips embedded in newer credit cards that

make them more secure. Those chips are optional for U.S. credit card issuers and retailers now, but changes in liability are going to make them nearly mandatory for retailers next year. However, some retailers have resisted the switch because they'll be forced to buy newer, more expensive credit card readers.

Hackers stole the information for some 40 million credit cards from Target. While it's not clear yet whether some of the new security measures, such as chips, would have prevented the breach, experts have said the chips make it harder for thieves to make counterfeit cards using stolen credit card numbers.

The new group will also look

at other security ideas such as using one-time numbers to add a layer of security to online sales, and better encryption.

"One of the critical roles we play is to protect consumers and businesses against criminals and fraudsters," said Chris McWilton, president of North American Markets at MasterCard. "Only through industry collaboration and cooperation will we address the real and immediate issue of security and maintain consumer confidence and trust."

He called the chip-embedded cards the "next step in these efforts, alongside enhanced security solutions for online and mobile channels." □

## Facebook expands server farm in northern Sweden

**STOCKHOLM (AP)** — Facebook plans to build a new data center at its server farm in northern Sweden, less than a year after opening the plant, its first outside the United States. The company said Friday that the center in the northern city of Lulea will use new technology that will double the speed of construction, including pre-made modular sections that are assembled on-site. In June 2013, Facebook inaugurated the Lulea plant in a move to improve the social network's performance in Europe. It partly chose the location of the northern city because of the cold climate, which is crucial for maintaining the servers' temperature.

The California-based social network did not say when construction will begin. □

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# Stocks muddled as Ukraine tensions fester

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — One positive report on the U.S. economy was not enough to make investors more confident. The stock market ended mixed Friday after a day of muddled trading. Among the three main U.S. stock indexes, one edged higher, one closed little changed and the other closed low-

weekend and to offset optimism over a pickup in hiring by U.S. employers last month.

The Labor Department said companies created 175,000 jobs last month, easily topping economists' forecasts. While encouraging, investors didn't see the February report as part of a broader trend. December and January job figures were medio-

while this report gave people a little bit of hope that is the case, it is still too early to tell," said Krishna Memani, chief investment officer of OppenheimerFunds. The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed roughly flat, up a point, or 0.05 percent, to 1,878.04. The Dow Jones rose 30.83 points, or 0.2 percent, to 16,452.72 and the Nasdaq composite lost 15.90 points, or 0.4 percent,

Biotechnology and health care stocks were among the biggest decliners. Biogen Idec fell roughly 4 percent and Amgen fell 2 percent. The Nasdaq composite index is more heavily weighted to biotechnology and specialty pharmaceutical companies, which is part of the reason the index fell even though the Dow and S&P 500 rose. Bond prices fell following the release of the jobs numbers. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note rose to 2.79 percent, up from 2.74 percent on Thursday. Gold fell \$13.60, or 1 percent, to \$1,338.20.

As they have for much of the week, investors turned their attention overseas. Lawmakers in Russian-occupied Crimea unanimously declared they wanted to join Russia and would put the decision to voters in 10 days. President Barack Obama and several other Western leaders have condemned the referendum. Ukraine's economy is not large enough to cause serious damage to the global economy. But the geopolitical tensions that Russia's occupation is creating between Russia, Europe, Ukraine and the U.S. could potentially be destabilizing for the region, investors say. In particular, trade between Europe and Russia could be severely impacted. □



Coupons.com President & CEO Steven Boal clasps hands with his wife Michele Boal as they are applauded during opening bell ceremonies of the New York Stock Exchange, marking the company's IPO, Friday, March 7, 2014. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

er. Investors focused on the tensions in Ukraine, where the region of Crimea was preparing for a referendum on whether to split away and become part of Russia. It was enough of a reason to sell into the

cre, and the harsh winter weather has closed factories, cut into auto sales, and caused existing-home sales to plummet for the last three months. "People are hoping and praying that the recent slowness was weather-related, and

to 4,336.22. On the whole, the overall tone of the market was slightly negative. Three stocks fell for every two that rose on the New York Stock Exchange. Of the 10 industry sectors in the S&P 500 index, six fell.

## US trade deficit rose to \$39.1B during January

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. trade deficit widened slightly in January as a rise in imports of oil and other foreign goods offset a solid increase in exports. The trade deficit increased to \$39.1 billion, up 0.3 percent from December's revised \$39 billion deficit, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

Exports climbed 0.6 percent to \$192.8 billion, led by increased sales of U.S.-made machinery, aircraft and medical equipment. Imports also rose 0.6 percent to \$231.6 billion, reflecting a 9 percent jump in imports of petroleum. Imports of food and machinery also rose.

The trade deficit is the difference between imports and exports. A higher trade deficit acts as a drag on economic growth because it means U.S. companies are making less overseas than their foreign competitors are earning in U.S. sales.

Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the January trade report suggests the trade deficit will remain on a gradual downward trend this year, reflecting a shrinking U.S. energy deficit.

In 2013, the trade deficit dropped 11.2 percent to \$474.9 billion, providing a small boost to overall growth. Economists believe that trade will contribute to growth again this year but only by a modest amount. They are forecasting that U.S. exports will keep rising, but that this will be offset somewhat by gains in imports as a stronger U.S. and higher consumer spending attracts more foreign goods.

In the October-December quarter, the economy grew at an annual rate of 2.4 percent and a full percentage point of that growth came from a shrinking trade deficit. For the whole year, the falling trade deficit contributed a smaller 0.1 percentage point to growth. □

## Cerberus in \$9B deal for Safeway grocery chain

MICHAEL MERCED

WILLIAM ALDEN

© 2014 New York Times

A group led by the private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management agreed this week to buy Safeway in a deal worth more than \$9 billion, giving it control of the big grocery store chain in the largest leveraged buyout this year. Cerberus plans to merge Safeway with Albertsons, a smaller grocery store company it owns. Investors are expected to receive about \$40 a share, made up primarily of a cash payout of \$32.50 a share and a portion of proceeds from asset sales. The bid represents a 17 percent premium over

Safeway's stock price Feb. 18, the day before it disclosed that it was in sales talks with an unnamed bidder. The deal is one of the biggest since the financial crisis, as buyout firms continue to seize on the prevalence of cheap debt financing to make acquisitions. The transaction will be supported with roughly \$7.6 billion worth of borrowed money. Cerberus, which emerged as the top suitor for Safeway in the past several months, hopes to reap more cost savings by combining the retailer with its other supermarkets. Together, those holdings and Safeway will have more than 2,400 stores and

more than 250,000 employees. "Working together will enable us to create cost savings that translate into price reductions for our customers," Bob Miller, Albertsons' chief executive, said in a statement. "Together, we will be able to respond to local needs more quickly and deliver outstanding products at the lowest possible price, more efficiently than ever before." Robert Edwards, the president and chief executive of Safeway, cited these cost savings to argue that the deal would pass regulatory muster. He said on a conference call with reporters that the "competitive position for

the combined company" would allow it to reduce prices. Years ago, Safeway had a period of private equity ownership, after it was bought in 1986 by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts for \$4.25 billion. The deal was a huge success for KKR, which reaped billions of dollars of profit, but at the expense of thousands of jobs.

"There are no store closures planned at this time based on this merger," Miller said. Under the terms of the deal, he will become the executive chairman of the new company. Safeway's chief executive will retain that position for the combined grocery store businesses. □



## Chinese authorities allowing first corporate bond default

JOE McDONALD  
AP Business Writer

**BEIJING (AP)** — Chinese authorities allowed the country's first corporate bond default on Friday, inflicting losses on small investors in a painful step toward making its financial system more market-oriented.

Investors in bonds sold in 2012 by Chaori Solar Energy Science & Technology Co., a manufacturer of solar panels, were paid as little as 3 percent of the interest that was due Friday, according to two bondholders, one of whom said he put his parents' savings into the bonds. The company warned earlier this week it had only 4 million yuan (\$660,000) and faced an interest payment of 90 million yuan (\$15 million).

Until now, Beijing has bailed out troubled borrowers to preserve confidence in its fledgling credit markets. But the ruling Communist Party has pledged to make the economy more productive by allowing market forces a bigger role.

Earlier efforts to stave off defaults by other borrowers with loans from state banks or other aid prompted complaints Chinese authorities were wasting money. Critics said investors should share in losses. The implicit government guarantee also meant bond interest rates didn't accurately reflect investment risks, a key function of bond markets.

The timing of the default was highly symbolic, coming two days after Premier Li Keqiang, in an annual policy speech to China's legislature, said markets would play a "decisive role" in allocating credit and other resources.

The ruling party usually tries to prevent politically sensitive developments during such high-profile events. Its willingness to allow Chaori's default to go ahead suggested Chinese leaders want to make clear such events are routine.

Financial analysts have expressed concern about rising Chinese corporate debt as rapid economic growth slows and the government tries to cool a lending and investment boom.

Some companies also face pressure due to government efforts to reduce production capacity in industries in which supply exceeds demand, such as steel, cement and aluminum. That glut of supply has depressed prices, sometimes below production cost, causing heavy losses and in some cases forcing companies into bankruptcy. Phone calls to Chaori's headquarters on Friday were not answered. News reports earlier said many investors in the company's 1 billion yuan (\$160 million) bond issue were retirees and other individual buyers. Small investors who want a better return than the low interest rates paid by China's state-owned banks have flocked to corporate bonds and higher-risk investments such as securities backed by packages of credit card and other debt. One investor in Chaori bonds, Wang Haorao, said he received a payment of just over 10,000 yuan (\$1,600) on Friday, equal to about 4 percent of the 250,000 yuan (\$42,000) in interest he received on the same date last year. Wang, a researcher for a securities firm in the eastern city of Tianjin, said he invested more than 1 million yuan (\$160,000) of his own money and 2.8 million yuan (\$460,000) from friends and relatives in Chaori bonds. "The stock market is unstable and the bank interest rate is just too low in China. That's why we invested in the bonds," said Wang, 33. "When I saw the announcement two days ago, I knew the worst was happening." China's solar equipment industry has suffered heavy losses due to a glut of production capacity that led to price-cutting wars. □

## Despite harsh winter: American employers add 175K jobs

C. S. RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. employers stepped up hiring in February despite a blast of harsh winter weather, renewing hopes that the economy could accelerate this year. February's gain of 175,000 jobs, up from January's 129,000, coincided with a rise in the unemployment rate to 6.7 percent from a five-year low of 6.6 percent. The rate rose because more Americans began seeking jobs but some didn't find them. That's still an encouraging sign: More job hunters suggest that people grew more optimis-

a note to clients.

Investors welcomed the news, pushing up the Dow Jones industrial average about 44 points in late-morning trading.

The severe winter had less effect on hiring than most economists had feared. Construction companies, which usually stop work in bad weather, added 15,000 jobs.

Manufacturing gained 6,000 for a second straight month. Government added 13,000 jobs, the most in six months. Shipping and warehousing companies and retailers cut jobs.

Still, the monthly average of 129,000 jobs that em-

risen 2.2 percent over the past 12 months, ahead of 1.6 percent inflation over that time.

Friday's report makes it likely that the Federal Reserve will continue reducing its monthly bond purchases at its next meeting March 18-19. The Fed is buying Treasury and mortgage bonds to try to keep long-term loan rates low to spur growth. Fed policymakers have reduced their monthly bond purchases by \$10 billion at each of their past two meetings to \$65 billion. Though harsh winter weather didn't appear to slow hiring much, the number of Americans who



**Recruiter Valera Kulow, left, speaks with job seeker Monic Spencer during a career fair in Dallas. U.S. employers stepped up hiring in February despite a blast of harsh winter weather, renewing hopes that the economy could accelerate this year.**

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

tic about their prospects. Friday's figures from the Labor Department were a welcome surprise after recent reports showed that harsh weather had closed factories, lowered auto sales and slowed home sales. Along with an increase in wages last month, the report suggests that some employers are confident that consumer spending will pick up in coming months.

"If the economy managed to generate 175,000 new jobs in a month when the weather was so severe, once the weather returns to seasonal norms ... employment growth is likely to accelerate further," Paul Dales, an economist at Capital Economics, said in

employers have added from December through February marks the weakest three-month stretch since mid-2012. It's down from a 225,000 average for the previous three months.

The report presents "a picture of a grinding but positive recovery in the economy," said Stephen Wood, chief market strategist at Russell Investments.

The government revised up its estimate of job gains for December and January by a combined 25,000. December's gain was revised up from 75,000 to 84,000, January's from 113,000 to 129,000.

Average hourly pay rose 9 cents in February to \$24.31, the biggest gain since June. Hourly wages have

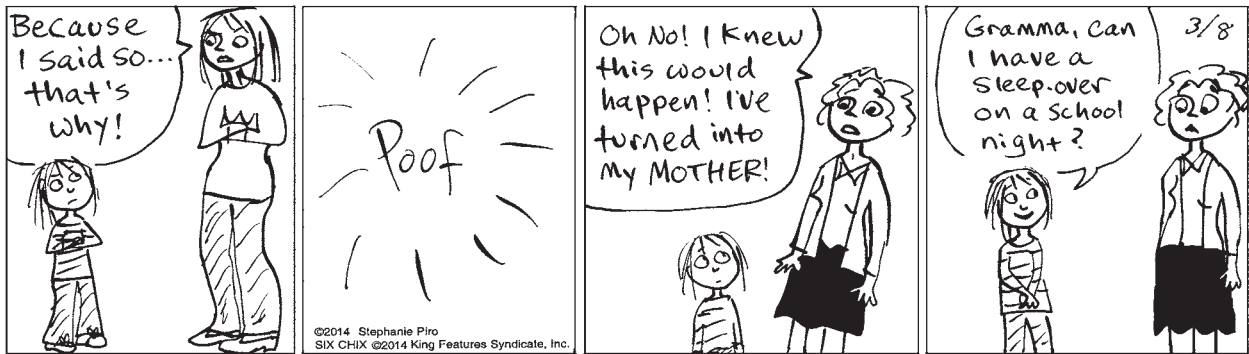
said weather forced them to work part time in February rather than full time reached the highest level in the 36 years that the government has tracked the figure. Hours worked fell. Some recent reports hint that the economy will accelerate as the weather warms. The number of people who applied for unemployment benefits fell last week and is at about the same level as before the Great Recession. Applications for unemployment benefits essentially reflect layoffs. The decline suggests that companies are confident about future growth, because layoffs would rise if employers expected business to weaken. □



Mutts



6 Chix



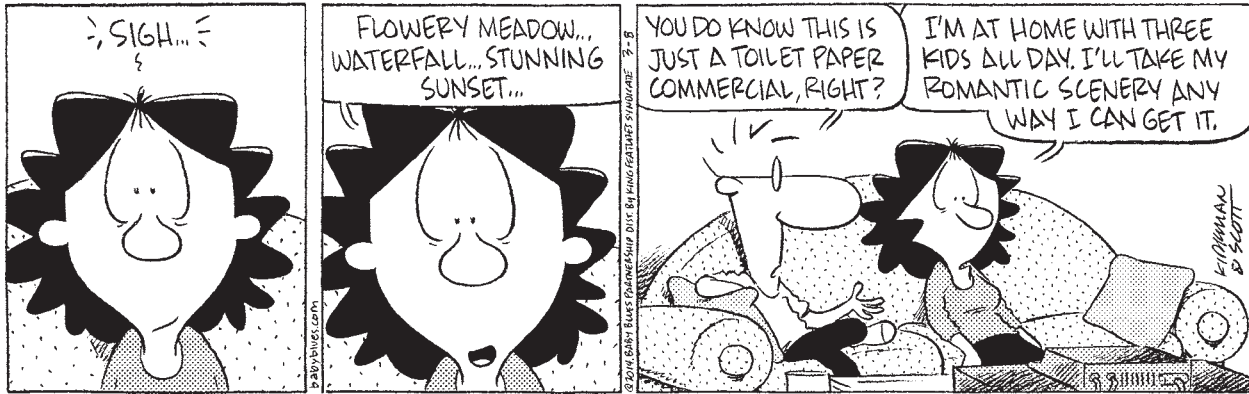
Blondie



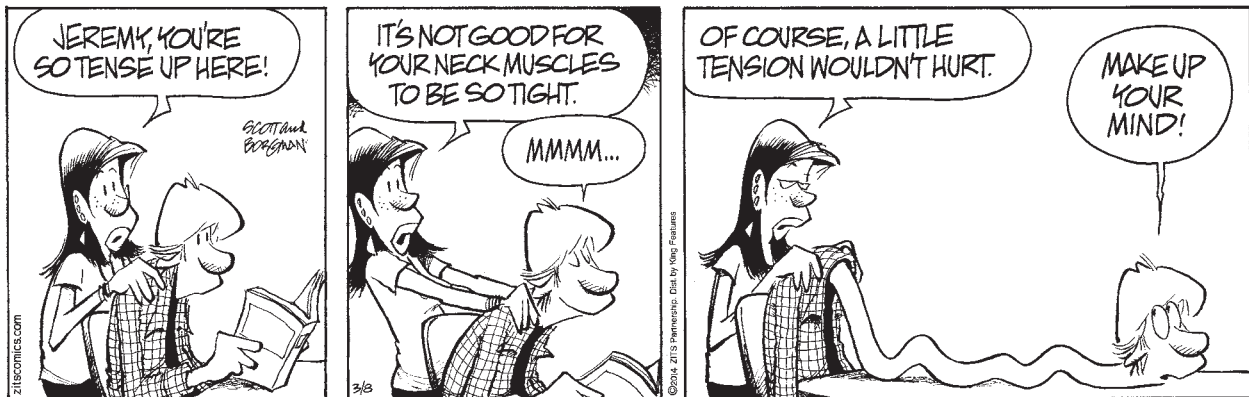
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2	5			1			9	4
			5		3			
	7						3	
	6						2	
1				3				8
	4						7	
	2						4	
			2		7			
4	8			9			1	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	4	2	3	8	6	9	7	5
3	7	5	1	9	2	4	6	8
8	9	6	7	4	5	2	3	1
2	1	8	4	5	7	6	9	3
7	3	9	8	6	1	5	2	4
6	5	4	9	2	3	8	1	7
4	2	7	6	1	8	3	5	9
5	8	3	2	7	9	1	4	6
9	6	1	5	3	4	7	8	2

ACROSS

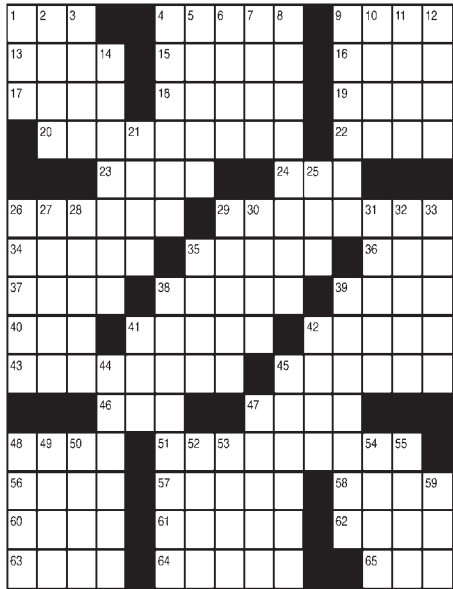
- 1 24-hour period  
4 Rarin' to go  
9 High-ranking nav. officer  
13 Smell  
15 Kitchen range  
16 Follow orders  
17 Music's Lady

- 18 Baby's ailment  
19 Mountaintop  
20 Deal with incompetently  
22 Just sitting there  
23 Actress Lange  
24 Go to Kingdom Come  
26 Peaceful  
29 Loops for a cowboy's feet  
34 "A rose is \_\_\_ is a..."

- 35 African nation  
36 Burst  
37 Dory or dinghy  
38 Street talk  
39 \_\_\_ on; incite  
40 Sullivan and Bradley  
41 Landing places  
42 Fraternity letter  
43 Kept  
45 Publisher William Randolph \_\_\_  
46 Drumstick  
47 Wild hog  
48 Door handle  
51 Highest  
56 Nary a one  
57 \_\_\_ of; find out about  
58 Diamond or Sedaka  
60 Hardly \_\_\_; rarely  
61 As \_\_\_; usually  
62 Of sound mind  
63 "\_\_\_ of Eden," Steinbeck's work  
64 Governed  
65 \_\_\_ King Cole

DOWN

- 1 Chow or collie  
2 Actor Sandler



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/8/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

FIRE	SHADE	SHOT
AREA	CECIL	LEVI
COLT	REMEMBERED	
ENE	TIDE	JERRY
NORMS	NOV	
CATNAP	RAREST	
ALLEY	SPAIN	PAL
LIES	SPOIL	MANE
LBS	QUAIL	DOCKS
ISSUES	CARESS	
NET	RAINS	
BAGEL	SANS	HAD
IDEALISTIC	RITE	
DARK	ROUSE	UPON
EMMY	ASNER	ESPY

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3/8/14

- 33 "Jack \_\_\_ could eat no fat..."  
35 Delight  
38 Not plural  
39 Stone & Gless  
41 Lemon meringue  
42 Braves or Bulls  
44 Mr. Einstein  
45 Having antlers  
47 TV's "Uncle Millie"  
48 Leg joint  
49 \_\_\_ Scotia  
50 Individuals  
52 Lima's nation  
53 Ron or Rand  
54 Actor Penn  
55 Singer Turner  
59 Allow



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# Funding for U.S.-German airborne observatory cut

**PALMDALE, California (AP)** — NASA plans to mothball its infrared airborne observatory unless it can get some financial help from international partners. President Barack Obama's proposed budget for fiscal 2015 released Tuesday slashes funding for the U.S.-German project from \$84 million to \$12 million. "Budgets are about making choices," said NASA Administrator Charles Bolden. NASA is the main backer of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, or SOFIA for short, which scans the skies for celestial objects that give off radiation in infrared wavelengths that are not visible

to the human eye. The high-flying observatory, which cost about \$1.25 billion to develop, has a history of delays and cost overruns. It made its first observations in 2010 and reached full operational capability last month. The two NASA centers in charge of the project, NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center in Southern California and Ames Research Center in Northern California, learned about the proposed cut last week. "It was a surprise to all of us," said David McBride, head of NASA Armstrong, formerly known as the Dryden Flight Research Center.



In this 1998 photo provided by NASA and Universities Space Research Association (USRA) shows a modified Boeing 747SP jetliner containing the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) infrared observatory, a project of NASA and the German Aerospace Center.

Associated Press

## Statue of Egypt pharoanic princess found in Luxor

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt has announced that a team of European archaeologists have found a nearly 2-meter- (6 ½-foot-) tall alabaster statue of a pharoanic princess, dating from approximately 1350 B.C., outside the southern city of Luxor. Minister of Antiquities Mohammed Ibrahim said in a statement Friday that the statue was once part of a larger statue that was nearly 14 meters (456 feet) tall and guarded the entrance to a temple. Ibrahim says the statue is of Iset, the daughter of Amenhotep III, and is the first found that depicts her without her siblings. Archaeologists uncovered the statue next to the funerary temple of Amenhotep III, who was worshipped as a deity after his death. □



In this undated photo provided by Egypt's Antiquities Ministry, a statue of what the ministry says King Amenhotep III's daughter is shown at an undisclosed place.

Associated Press

SOFIA consists of a 40,000-pound (18,000-kilogram) telescope that's mounted in the rear of a modified jumbo jet. During flight, a hatch opens to allow the 100-inch (2,540-millimeter) diameter telescope to see its targets. Flying between 39,000 feet (12,000 meters) and 45,000

feet (13,700 meters), SOFIA has an advantage over ground-based telescopes because it doesn't have to peer through the water vapor in the atmosphere. NASA previously said SOFIA was expected to last at least 20 years. The observatory will continue flying through September. If

there's no extra funding, then the space agency will have to put it in storage. If it comes to that, "we lose a lot of momentum," McBride said. Pete Worden, NASA Ames director, said he will fly to Germany in several weeks and plans to find a way to continue the mission. □

## Gene identified for butterfly wing marking mimicry

**MALCOLM RITTER**  
AP Science Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — To fool predators, some butterflies create wing color patterns that make them resemble their unpalatable cousins. Only recently have scientists been unraveling how they do that, and now researchers have identified the gene that does the trick for an Asian swallowtail. In fact, it's a surprise that just one gene can let females of the species, sometimes called the

common mormon, produce the elaborate wing markings of toxic relatives. Scientists had proposed that it would take a cluster of genes. "We were very shocked when we found it was just the one," said Marcus Kronforst of the University of Chicago, senior author of the study published online Wednesday by the journal Nature. The gene was already known to play a different role, basically telling body cells whether the

insect is male or female. It was apparently co-opted to take on the second job of controlling wing patterns in females, Kronforst said. The gene acts as a switch, regulating other genes to produce wing patterns that mimic those of any of three species of toxic butterflies. A given butterfly's pattern depends on what versions of the gene it inherited from each parent. The gene can also make a female's wing look like a male's. □

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# Size Records giving songs for free via Google Play

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — International DJ-producer Steve Angello is giving away his record label's entire catalog with the help of Google Play.

The former Swedish House Mafia member announced Friday that his Size Records will roll out more than 170 songs for free to fans in America. The campaign, dubbed "#DECADE," kicks off with 10 free songs Friday. The rest of the label's music will be made available in the coming weeks and will conclude during Miami Music Week at the end of the month.

"I don't think that music should always be for free, but I think if there's stuff that can be done the way we've done it now, I think labels should give it a try," he said in an interview this week.

Angello launched Size Records in 2003, and the new

campaign is to thank fans for the decade-long support behind the independent label. The free songs, launched with Angello's creative agency Rebels Studios alongside Google, are from more than 80 artists. "We took a pretty hard hit when it came to finances (and) trying to sell records when it became digital, so for me it really doesn't make much of a big difference financially — if I give it away for free or if I sell it," he said. "So, why not?" Angello is best known as one-third of electronic dance outfit Swedish House Mafia alongside Axwell and Sebastian Ingrosso. Their international hits include "Save the World" and "Don't You Worry Child." Angello also has had success as a producer for Usher, will.i.am and others with and without his former bandmates. His new campaign follows in the footsteps of De La Soul, who released seven



Isabel Adrian and Steve Angello attend EN|NOIR Fall/Winter 2014 Runway Show at Park Avenue Armory, on Tuesday, Feb. 11 2014 in New York.

Associated Press

albums worth of material for free on its website for 25 hours last month. Jay Z also was unconventional when he released his last album,

"Magna Carta Holy Grail," through a deal with Samsung that gave the album to 1 million users of Galaxy mobile phones days before

its official release. His wife, Beyonce, made a splash when she released her self-titled album as a surprise on iTunes late last year. □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

*Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"*



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



### Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

**Driftwood Restaurant.** This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



## Isaiah Washington returning to 'Grey's Anatomy'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — ABC says Isaiah Washington will return to "Grey's Anatomy" for a guest appearance in May, seven years after he was fired from the medical drama.

Washington exited the series in 2007 after an on-set clash the year before, in which an anti-gay epithet was directed at another cast member at the time, T.R. Knight.

Washington's return as Dr. Preston Burke coincides with the announced departure of series star Sandra Oh at the season's end in May. Her character, Dr. Cristina Yang, was engaged to Washington's Burke at one point in the long-running drama.

The date of Washington's episode was not announced.

During the controversy involving him, Washington also used the epithet



In this Jan. 15, 2014 file photo, cast member Isaiah Washington participates in "The 100" panel at the CBS Winter TCA Press Tour, at the Langham Huntington, in Pasadena, Calif.

Associated Press

backstage at the 2007 Golden Globe awards. He publicly apologized and tried to make amends by meeting with gay-rights organizations. □

## Harry Belafonte receives honorary Berklee doctorate

**BOSTON (AP)** — Boston's Berklee College of Music has presented an honorary doctor of music degree to singer, songwriter and activist Harry Belafonte.

The entertainer was honored Thursday night during a concert in his honor. He playfully stuck out his tongue upon receiving the degree.

Berklee students and faculty performed the celebration of Belafonte's life and music, from "Banana Boat Song" to "We are the World."

Belafonte was a confidante of Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement. In the 1980s he helped start the USA for Africa project to fight hunger, and also pushed for an end to apartheid in South Africa.

Other recipients of Berklee's honorary doctor-



Harry Belafonte laughs while speaking after receiving an honorary doctor of music from Berklee College of Music at the Berklee Performance Center in Boston, Thursday, March 6, 2014.

Associated Press

ate have included Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Steven Tyler, Willie Nelson, Aretha Franklin and Quincy Jones. □



This Feb. 24, 2014 photo released by NBC shows, from left, Carson Daly, Natalie Morales, Savannah Guthrie, Matt Lauer, Al Roker, and Ronan Farrow on "Today," in New York.

Associated Press

## NBC's 'Today' feeling fight again after Sochi

**DAVID BAUDER**  
AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — NBC's "Today" show didn't leave its mojo in Sochi and is feeling newly energized in the program's perpetual battle with ABC's dominant "Good Morning America." After winning in the ratings for two weeks during the Winter Olympics — NBC's first weekly wins since the London games in summer 2012 — the "Today" show has kept some of its momentum now that Matt Lauer, Savannah Guthrie and the team are back in the New York studio.

"GMA" was back on top last week, recording 5.79 million viewers to 5.46 million at "Today," the Nielsen company said. The margin of some 330,000 viewers, however, compared favorably to the average 1.1 million viewer gap ABC had built up this television season heading into the Olympics.

"No one is high-fiving at this point," said Don Nash, "Today" executive producer, "but I do feel we are headed in the right direction and I do feel a sense of energy and momentum on the show right now."

Meanwhile, backstage at "Good Morning America," staff members held

their own medal ceremony Thursday. The show is thrilled with its performance during the Olympics, said Tom Cibrowski, "GMA" senior executive producer.

"We fully expected to take something of a beating and we didn't," he said Friday.

The most encouraging sign for ABC is that "Good Morning America" didn't lose viewers during the Olympics and its aftermath. During the Olympics, "Good Morning America" averaged 5.81 million viewers, compared with 5.77 million for the season prior to Sochi, Nielsen said.

ABC tried a new strategy. Knowing that "Today" has its team at the Olympics and interviews the top athletes every day, "Good Morning America" figured in past years that it couldn't compete and largely ignored the event. But it's hard for a morning show to stay away from the country's main topic of conversation for two weeks, so this year ABC sent Amy Robach to Sochi and held Olympic-themed events outside its Times Square studio.

NBC tightened the race by bringing in new viewers. The show averaged

a shade below 6 million viewers each day during the Olympics and drew 4.61 million on an average day prior to the games. The challenge for NBC will be keeping those new viewers, and it's a stretch to think they'll all stay.

"Whether the new viewers came from 'GMA' or anyone else, it doesn't matter to me," Nash said. "I just want to have as many people watching the broadcast as possible."

NBC and Deborah Turness, the network's news president, have worked hard the past few months to put a nightmarish stretch on what was once the country's favorite morning show behind them. ABC's team, led by Robin Roberts and George Stephanopoulos, capitalized on the bad vibes surrounding NBC's dumping of Ann Curry from "Today." NBC built a new set for "Today," adding an orange arch on Rockefeller Plaza upon the return from Sochi, and added people like Willie Geist, Carson Daly and Tamron Hall. The show is more aggressively going after interviews, with Lauer speaking to Toronto Mayor Rob Ford and Kerry Kennedy, and Guthrie to Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg in recent weeks. □



## Billion Dollar Babies



**GAIL COLLINS**  
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The Koch brothers are in the news more than Justin Bieber. This week, the billionaire siblings from Kansas made the top 10 in Forbes' list of wealthiest people on the planet. In fact, if you lump Charles and David Koch together, they're No. 1. Meanwhile, in the Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid embarked on a rampage of anti-Koch speeches, denouncing the brothers as cancer-causing polluters who pour unlimited money into conservative political campaigns in an "un-American" attempt to subvert democracy. Then Charles Koch gave an interview to The Wichita Business Journal! I know, I know. But given the supreme lowness of the brothers' low profile, it was an electric moment.

"Somebody has got to work to save the country and preserve a system of opportunity," Koch said, explaining his late-life calling as the nation's premier right-wing megadonor.

My question for today is: Do you think it's fair to call these guys oligarchs? We have been thinking about oligarchs lately since our attention has been fixed on the former Soviet Union, which is Oligarch Central. In fact, the new Ukrainian government just responded to the tensions in its eastern region by dispatching two billionaires to serve as provincial governors.

"Oligarch" sounds more interesting than "super-rich person with undue political influence." The Koch brothers have a genius for being publicly boring, while plowing vast sums of money into political action groups designed to make it difficult for anybody to make a good estimate of how much they've given to promote their goal of, um, saving the country.

Maybe it would help focus the public mind if we started referring to them as the Wichita oligarchs.

We do need to focus. The country has had very rich folks trying to influence national policy forever. But these days they seem to be getting very richer by the moment, and thanks to the Supreme Court, there's no longer any real lid on what they can spend.

Who would you want to count as an oligarch? I'd definitely vote for any billionaires who underwrite campaigns against environmental regulation while their company shows up as No. 14 on the list of Toxic 100 Air Polluters. We're looking at you, Kochs. (Thank you for the information, Political Economy Research In-

stitute, University of Massachusetts.)

Michael Bloomberg? Bloomberg bought himself 12 years as New York City mayor; his final election cost him more than \$100 million, or \$174 per vote, which sounds pretty darn oligarchic. Although when it comes to promoting a political career, being mayor will get you a good seat at a large number of parades.

Warren Buffett? He's richer than any individual Koch. But, I'm sorry. I do not see an oligarch running around demanding that the government raise his taxes.

I would definitely have voted for the late Harry Simmons of Texas, who donated \$31 million to political action committees in the last presidential election cycle. The collapse of campaign finance laws was a big time-saver for Simmons, whose estranged daughter once said that he gave her \$1,000 for each blank political contribution card she signed. But Simmons died last year, as did Bob Perry, a billionaire Texas realtor who shared Simmons' enthusiasm for that Swift Boat campaign against John Kerry.

"The question we're asking is: who's going to fill the oligarch vacuum?" said Craig McDonald of Texans for Public Justice. "And what do you call the level right under oligarchs? We've got plenty of them."

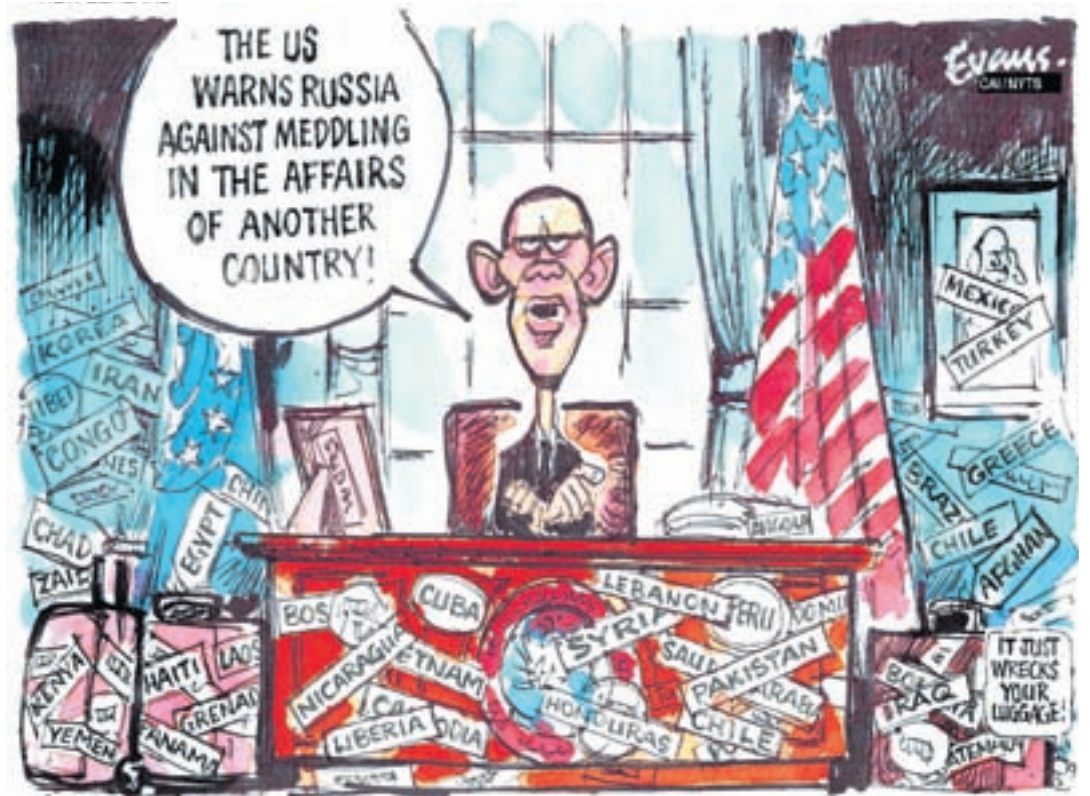
What comes below oligarchs? I guess mini-garchs. And below them, microgarchs. If you have a chance, try to refer to Donald Trump as a microgarch. It will drive him crazy.

But back to the real money: How about Paul Singer? He's a hedge fund billionaire who's sort of famous as the conservative donor who supports gay rights. As oligarchs go, however, he has a troubled track record: Rudy Giuliani in 2008, Chris Christie in 2012, Chris Christie, um, now.

Tom Steyer? This is another hedge fund billionaire. He's also an environmental activist who's investing \$100 million in a fund to reward politicians who support climate change legislation and punish those who don't. The Center for Public Integrity, which dubs Steyer's new fund a "single-issue vanity super PAC," is not a fan. But at least he's not crusading for healthier hedge funds.

Sheldon Adelson? You remember Sheldon Adelson. He's the billionaire casino owner who's currently funding a campaign to combat online gambling. Adelson claims he's propelled by a "moral standard," which apparently involves saving betters from losing money in any venue that does not involve going to a casino. But we will always remember him as the guy who invested more than \$16 million in the presidential prospects of Newt Gingrich.

This is truly only the billionaire beginning. Feel free to offer nominees. But don't get carried away. We want to be selective here. Start calling everybody an oligarch and it won't be special anymore. It'll just be like calling them lobbyists. □



## Who's the Villain Here?



**NICHOLAS KRISTOF**  
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Shrewd reporting about the Ukraine crisis comes from The Onion, which declared that American reaction is evenly divided - between the "wholly indifferent" and the "grossly misinformed."

In the latter category, it seems, belong the chest-thumpers who blame the Crimea catastrophe on President Barack Obama.

"We have a weak and indecisive president that invites aggression," scolded Sen. Lindsey Graham (revealing his own weakness: grammar). "President Obama needs to do something!" Likewise, Sen. John McCain complains that Obama's foreign policy is "feckless," so that "nobody believes in America's strength anymore."

Rep. Mike Rogers, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, worries that Russia is "running circles around us." The Washington Post warns in a stinging editorial that "President Obama's foreign policy is based on fantasy." The Wall Street Journal cautions that the basic problem is "Obama's retreat from global leadership."

Oh, come on! The villain here is named Putin, not Obama, and we should have learned to feel nervous when hawks jump up and down and say "do something!" We tried that in Iraq. When there are no good options, a flexing of muscles by NATO or

by U.S. warships in the Black Sea would only reinforce President Vladimir Putin's narrative to his home audience while raising the risk of conflict by accident or miscalculation.

Look, it's true that Obama's foreign policy has often been disappointing. Tripling the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan was a mistake. So was rejecting the advice of Hillary Clinton and David Petraeus to arm the moderate Syrian opposition. The Obama pivot to Asia has stalled, serious engagement with Pakistan ended with the death of Richard Holbrooke, and Obama has appointed some appallingly uninformed campaign donors to be ambassadors.

Then again, Obama's focus on nation-building at home is a nice change of pace from the Bush years. Moreover, Middle East peace talks are a plus, and talking to Iran is preferable to loose talk about bombing Natanz.

The basic constraint is that there are more problems in international relations than solutions. The critics I cite often rely on two fallacies: first, that Putin is driven by Obama's weakness; second, that the seizure of Crimea is a great win for Russia.

The Soviet Union didn't invade Hungary because of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's weakness, nor Czechoslovakia because of President Lyndon B. Johnson's weakness. Russia didn't help dismember Moldova because of President George H.W. Bush's weakness or invade Georgia because of President George W. Bush's.

We don't have much leverage because Putin cares far more about Ukraine than he does about being in the G-8. So, by all means, let's raise the cost of aggression with banking sanctions (which proved most effective against North Korea and Iran), but let's also recognize that, in the long run, it's Putin who has stumbled here.

Russia has just driven Ukraine into the West's orbit and acquired a long-term headache. Russia is

already pouring billions of dollars into the bits of Georgia and Moldova that it pilfered, and now it'll have to subsidize Crimea (which depends on Ukraine for water and electricity).

Putin's other problem: If Crimea becomes independent, its pro-Russian population will no longer vote in Ukrainian elections. The upshot would be Ukraine skewing even more to the West.

My father grew up in western Ukraine, near Chernivtsi. Our family house was in better shape in the 1930s than it is today. A highway that my grandfather helped build a century ago was barely passable on my last visit. Corruption is far worse today. The entire system has failed, so, of course, western Ukrainians look across the border at a thriving Poland, now firmly embedded in Europe, and see that as a far better model for the future.

Likewise, in a couple of decades, Russians may well look over the border at a thriving, European Ukraine and want that model for themselves as well. So be strong, Graham and McCain: Putin's advantage is temporary.

Republicans should be pointing to Obama's genuine giant foreign policy failure - Syria - and not Ukraine. The right's demands that Obama confront Putin also seem odd because many on the right have praised Putin and his traditional values. The American Conservative suggested in December that Putin might be "one of us," and Rudy Giuliani lately hailed Putin's decisiveness and said: "That's what you call a leader."

Giuliani's proposed solution to the Ukraine crisis: "We push him around. That's the only thing a bully understands."

It's heart-stoppingly brave of unarmed Ukrainian soldiers, singing for courage, to walk toward Russian troops who point machine guns at them and then fire in the air. But idle calls from a television studio for Obama to "do something" or to push Putin around, that strikes me as not brave, just puerile. □



# Knicks Fans, Do You Believe in ... 1999?

HARVEY ARATON

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The New York Knicks broke a seven-game losing streak and picked up a game on the Atlanta Hawks by notching their 22nd victory Wednesday. Inside their front office, Larry Johnson bent his arms in tribute to James L. Dolan's middle initial and told Dolan, the Madison Square Garden chairman, "It's all happening."

Nearby, Allan Houston clasped his hands, gently nodded and paraphrased Al Michaels: "Do you believe in first-round miracles?"

Maybe that is not exactly how it went down, but that is the only way for the Knicks and their fans to approach the last 20 games of this miserable season with any degree of sustainable hope. That is the only means of explaining the continued employment of coach Mike Woodson.

Precedent will provide. Eighth place will be claimed.

As they did 15 years ago, in a lockout-shortened season, the Knicks will rally to make the playoffs, where they will proceed to shock Miami, Indiana and the basketball world in the process of saving their beleaguered coach.

Woodson, who seldom smiles, will have the last laugh, as an equally dour Jeff Van Gundy did in 1999. "Sometimes things look a lot more chaotic on the outside than they actually are on the inside," Van Gundy said in a telephone interview Thursday. "In '99, we had made major changes, had some injuries and a couple of really bad, non-competitive performances. But we had highly competitive guys who believed we could get it together."

Van Gundy's Knicks had better reason to believe, because they were never 19 astonishing games under .500, as the current Knicks were until they outlasted the Timberwolves in Minneapolis on Wednesday night.

But for much of a 50-game

sprint, Van Gundy's Knicks were an underachiever with a bloated payroll (\$68.6 million, double the league average), prominently dysfunctional and, by mid-April, thought to be dead.

Who says Dolan hasn't learned anything in his

sprint, Van Gundy's Knicks were an underachiever with a bloated payroll (\$68.6 million, double the league average), prominently dysfunctional and, by mid-April, thought to be dead.

Johnson somehow saw a glass half full. "All we got to do is get in the playoffs," he said on the day of Grunfeld's reassignment. "Once we get there, I feel we can regroup and maybe peak like no other." After a victory over Charlotte, the Knicks went to Mi-

'If you're going for it all, it doesn't matter.' We won the game, and as it turned out, we got Miami anyway."

In the dying seconds of a decisive Game 5, Houston's runner in the lane bounced in. The Knicks then dominated Atlanta in the second

that a decimated Atlanta team that has three games left on a Western swing will continue to lose.

Get the deficit (currently 5 1/2 games) down to, say, three games with 15 to play, and, in Van Gundy's experience, "you gain a little confidence, and the joy returns."

That might propel the Knicks during their own West Coast trip later this month. With Carmelo Anthony, Van Gundy said, "they have a guy who could get really hot."

"But it can't be him alone," he added.

Agreed, but - hypothetically, optimistically, mind-blowingly - if Tyson Chandler plays as he has of late, Amar'e Stoudemire keeps scoring, Iman Shumpert regains his stride and Kenyon Martin gets back on the floor, might the Knicks be capable of reprising their eight-beats-one scenario against Indiana or Miami? Here, Van Gundy the coach became Van Gundy the ABC/ESPN analyst.

"I don't think they can beat Miami - they're just too good," he said. "Indiana, that's a little different because the Pacers have trouble scoring. Don't think the Knicks would win that series, either, but they could be competitive, like last year."

Still, couldn't Woodson know something that we don't, the way Van Gundy did 15 years ago? Couldn't we all be missing something? Didn't Van Gundy once think news media forecasters had the collective basketball IQ of a trained seal jumping through hoops?

That was then. This is now. He's one of them.

"Listen, you get paid to say what you think," Van Gundy said. "Just because it all changes doesn't mean what you said at the time was wrong."

In that case, just for the fun of it, let's believe in miracles. It beats the alternative: staying on the Woodson firing watch and counting the days to Anthony's contractual independence. □



Jeff Van Gundy, the New York Knicks head coach, talks to Latrell Sprewell during Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Finals in Indianapolis, May 30, 1999. The 1998-99 Knicks' unlikely rally to squeak in to the playoffs and subsequently reach the finals may offer hope to the fans of this season's similarly beleaguered and dysfunctional Knicks team.

(Barton Silverman/The New York Times)

years as the building's strongman?

That day in 1999, the Knicks fined Latrell Sprewell for his agent's comments that Sprewell was unhappy coming off the bench. Patrick Ewing was hobbled with various leg injuries. Checketts was surreptitiously plotting Van Gundy's exit by cozying up to Phil Jackson, who had taken the season off after the disbandment of the Michael Jordan-era Chicago Bulls.

ami, where they outscored the Heat by 18 in the fourth quarter to win.

"That was the turning point," Van Gundy said, recalling how his team had finished by winning 6 of 8, including another victory over Miami on the season's final day.

"In the locker room, there was some talk of tanking the game to avoid playing Indiana because our guys wanted to play Miami," he said. "But I told them,

round and stunned Indiana to become the only eighth-seeded team in NBA history to reach the finals, where they lost to San Antonio.

So Van Gundy was asked, Can this season's Knicks, bad as they have been, even fantasize of such a reversal?

With winnable games ahead, the Knicks could start right now with a string of victories - "something like 5 of 6," Van Gundy said - with the assumption